

02

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RATED TEEN +

# PANTHA



# PANTHA

Once queen to Pharoah Diogenes Hamset II, Pantha saw her future threatened by the birth of a son to the Pharoah and one of his consorts and turned to the goddess Sekhmet to grant her the eyes of all Egypt's felines. Then in an act of utter evil, she had every male child in the land slaughtered. Angered, Sekhmet cursed Pantha to eternal life, trapped between the forms of human and panther, forever to be tormented by her deeds...

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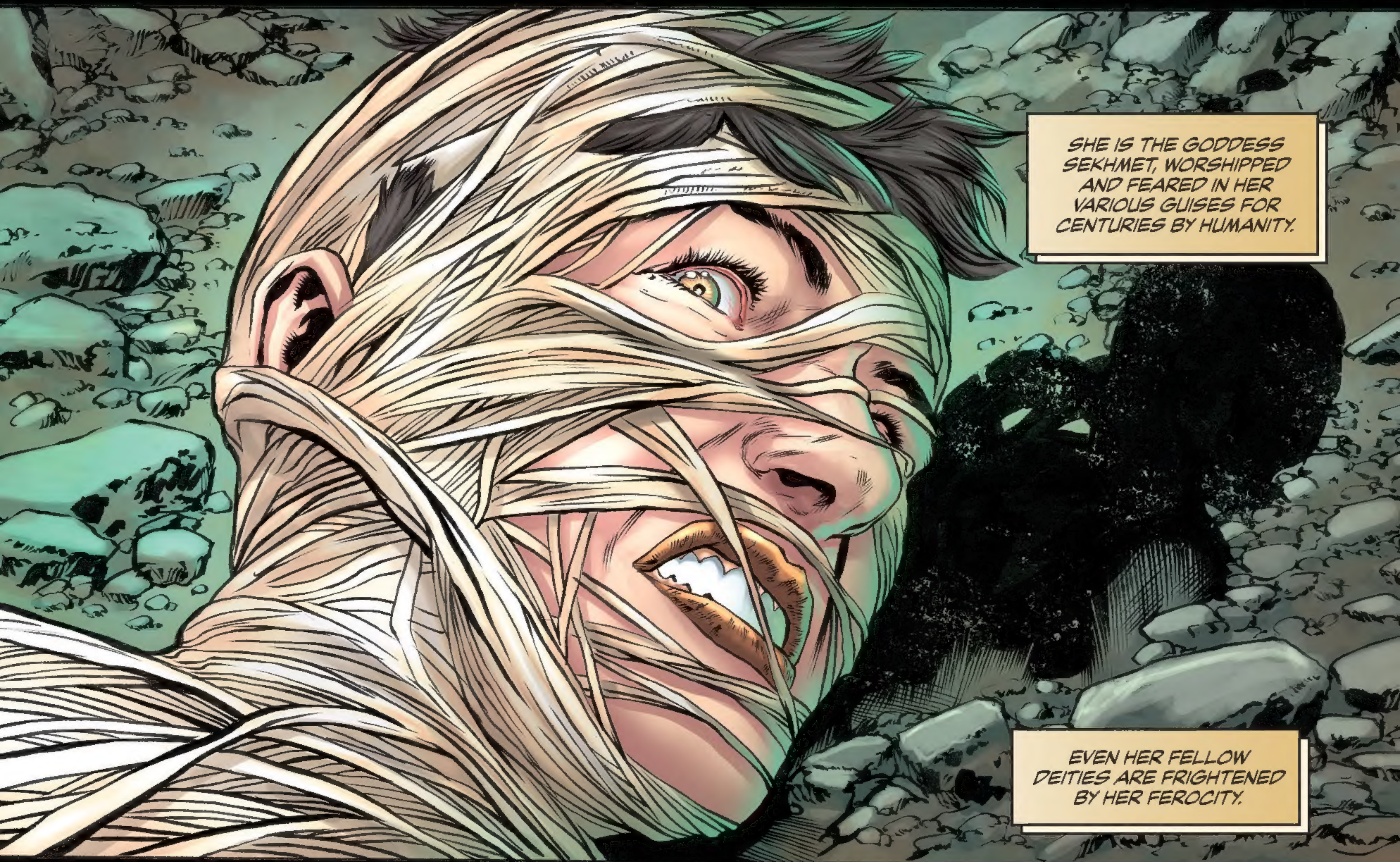
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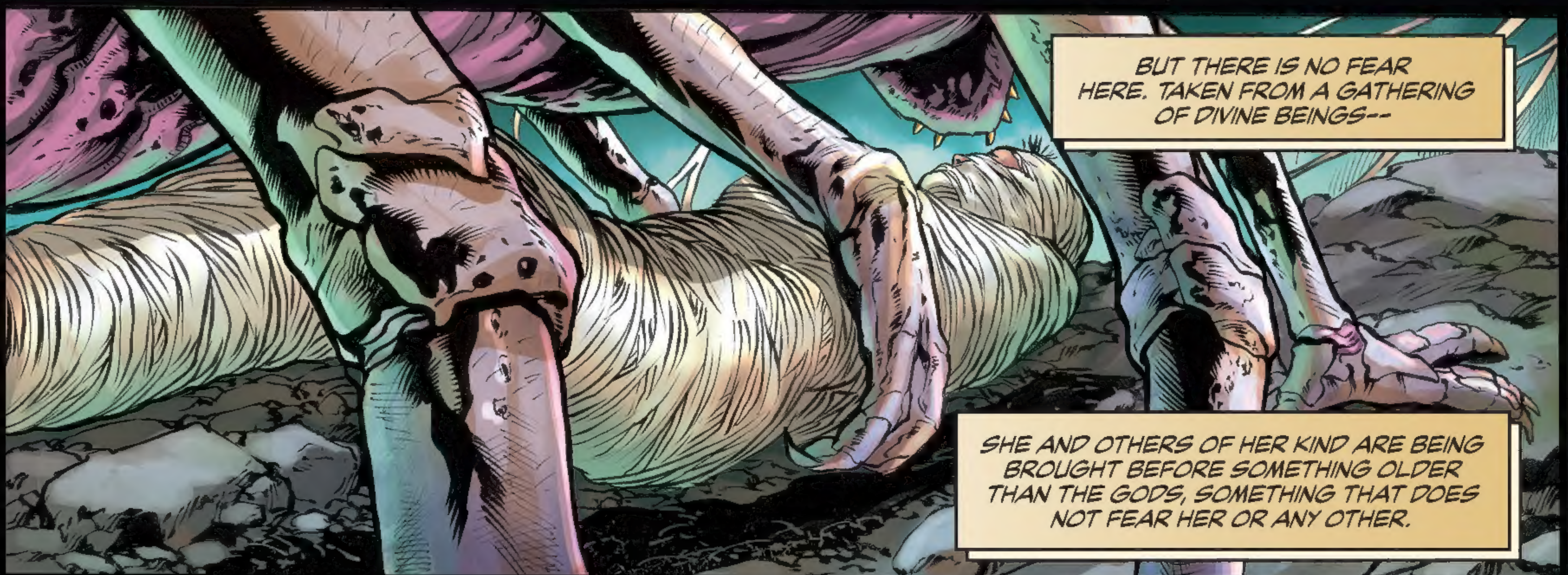
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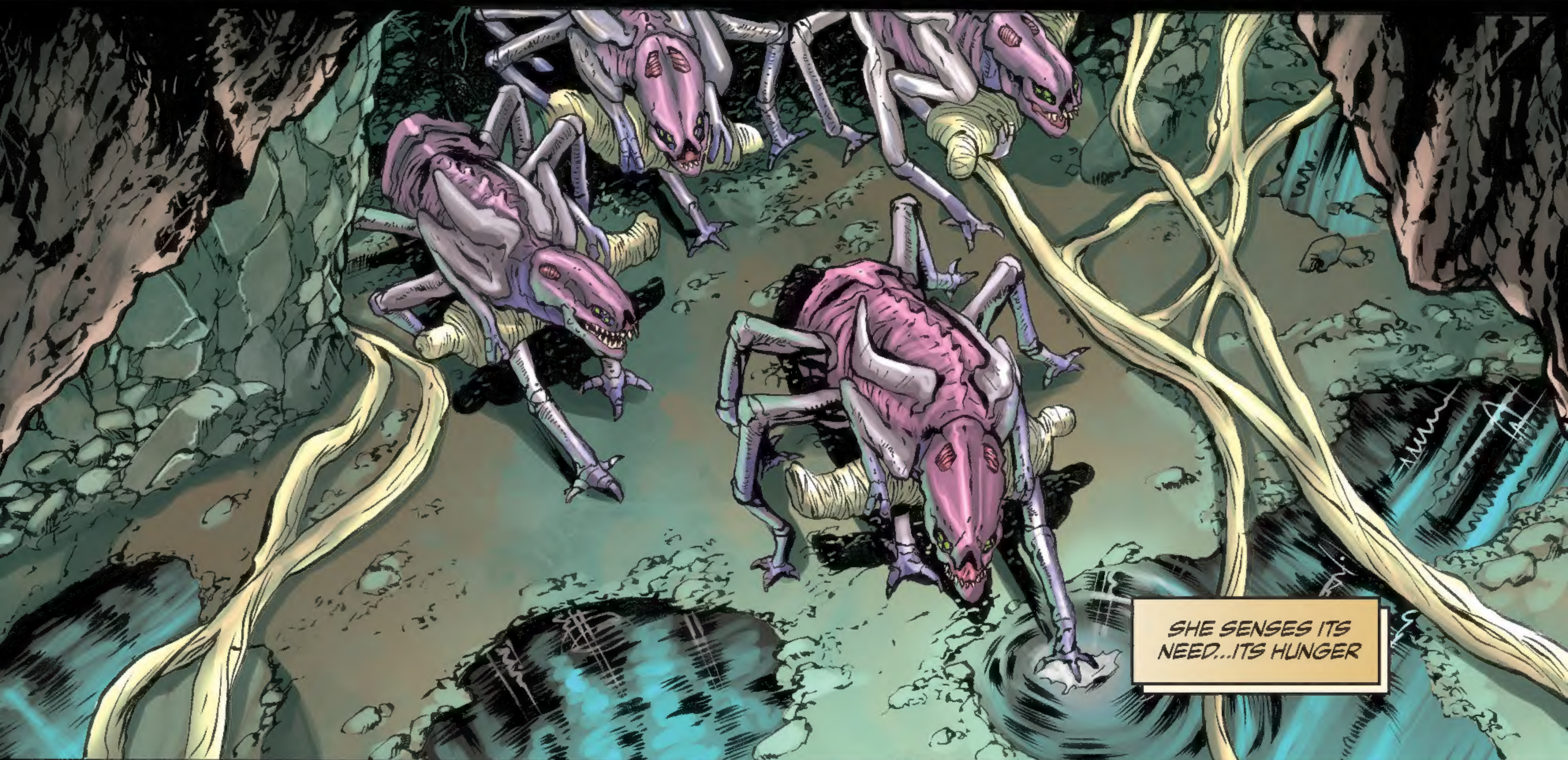
SHE IS THE GODDESS  
SEKHMET, WORSHIPPED  
AND FEARED IN HER  
VARIOUS GUISES FOR  
CENTURIES BY HUMANITY.

EVEN HER FELLOW  
DEITIES ARE FRIGHTENED  
BY HER FEROCITY.

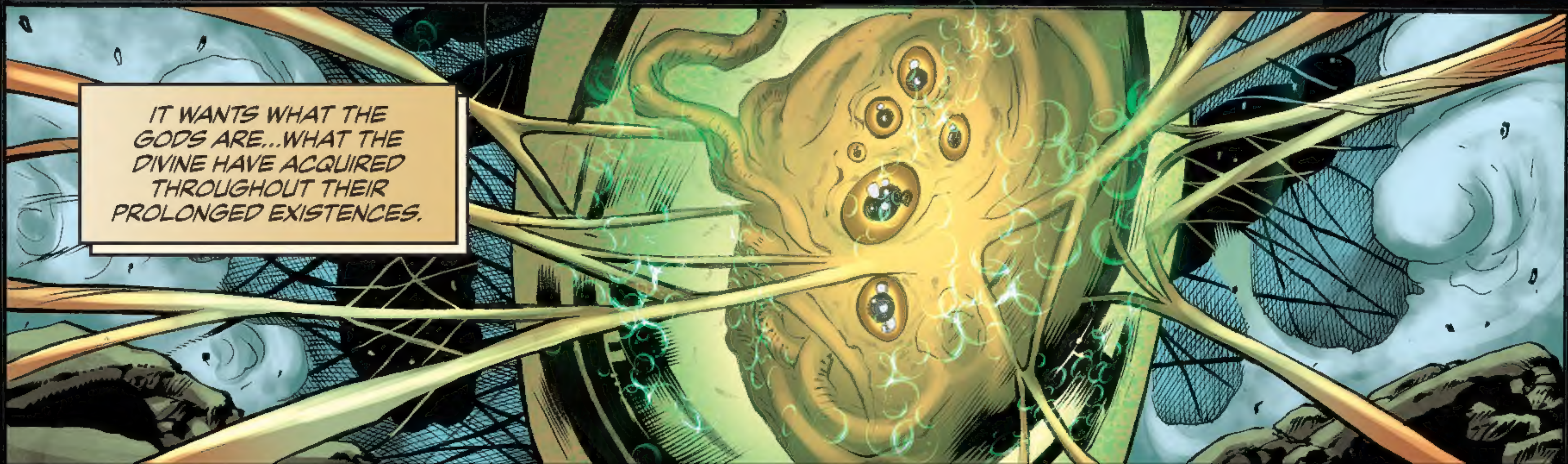


BUT THERE IS NO FEAR  
HERE. TAKEN FROM A GATHERING  
OF DIVINE BEINGS---

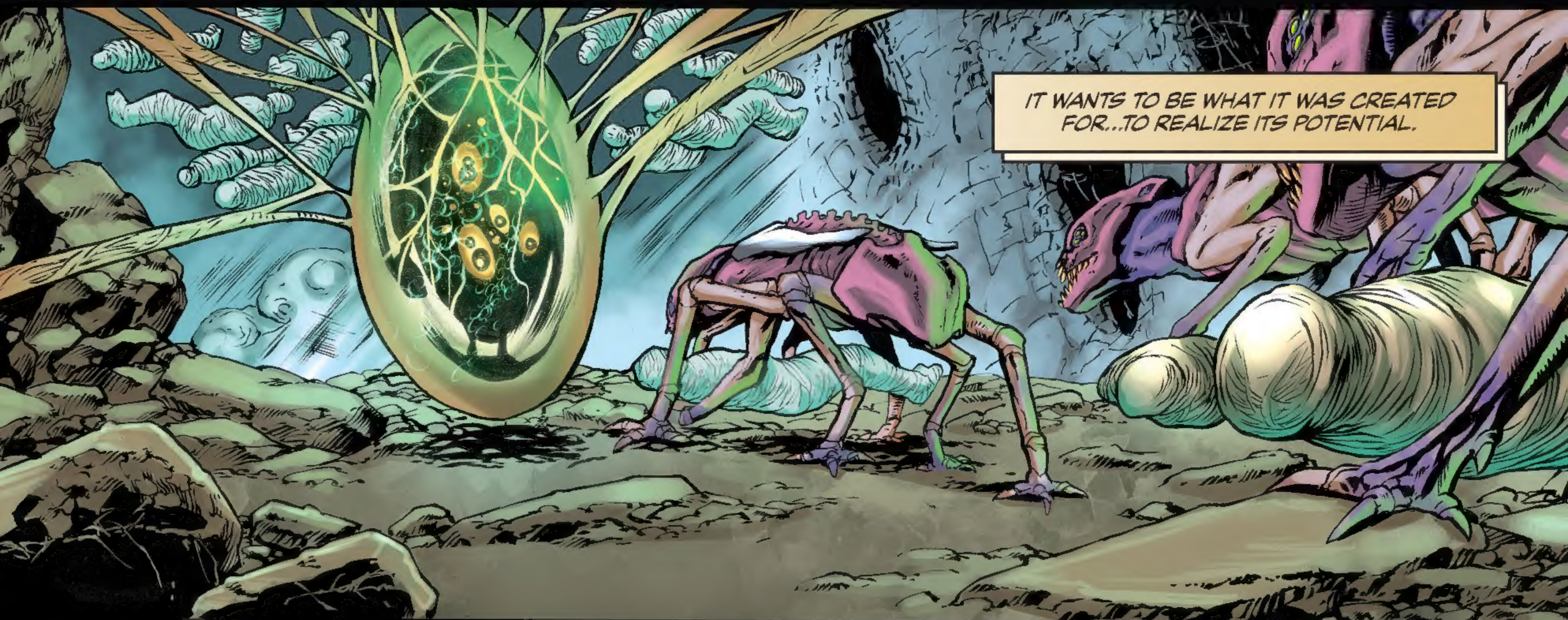
SHE AND OTHERS OF HER KIND ARE BEING  
BROUGHT BEFORE SOMETHING OLDER  
THAN THE GODS, SOMETHING THAT DOES  
NOT FEAR HER OR ANY OTHER.



SHE SENSES ITS  
NEED...ITS HUNGER



IT WANTS WHAT THE GODS ARE...WHAT THE DIVINE HAVE ACQUIRED THROUGHOUT THEIR PROLONGED EXISTENCES.

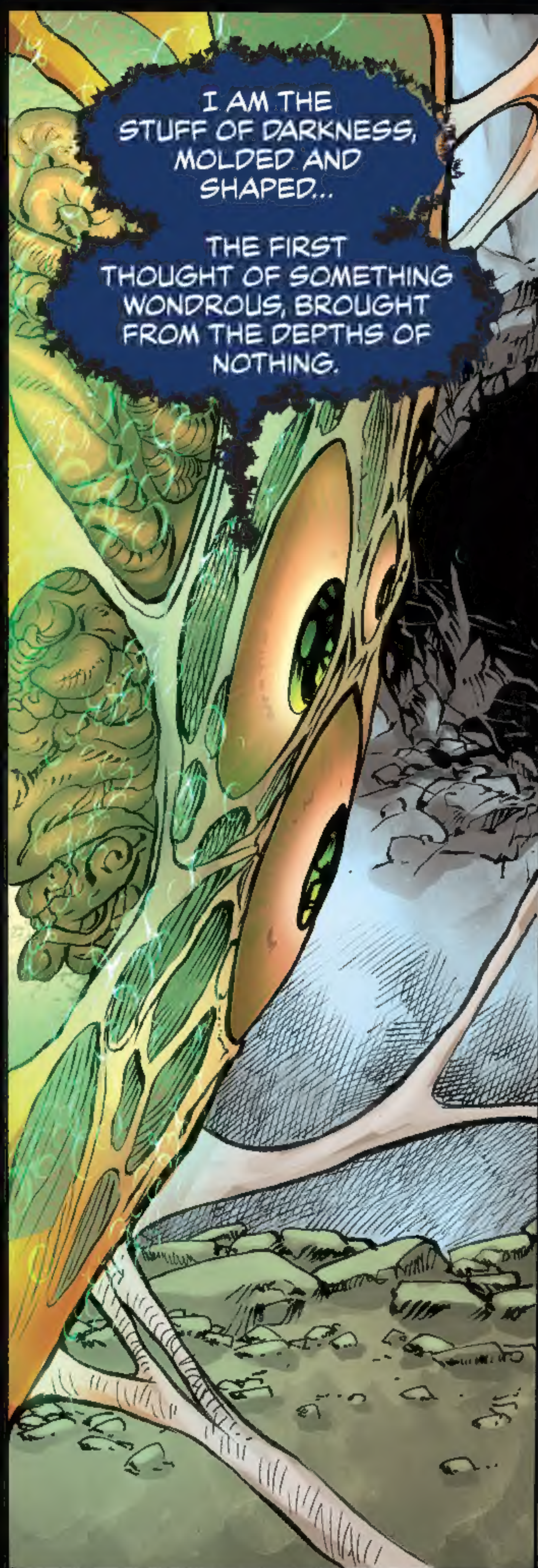


IT WANTS TO BE WHAT IT WAS CREATED FOR...TO REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL.



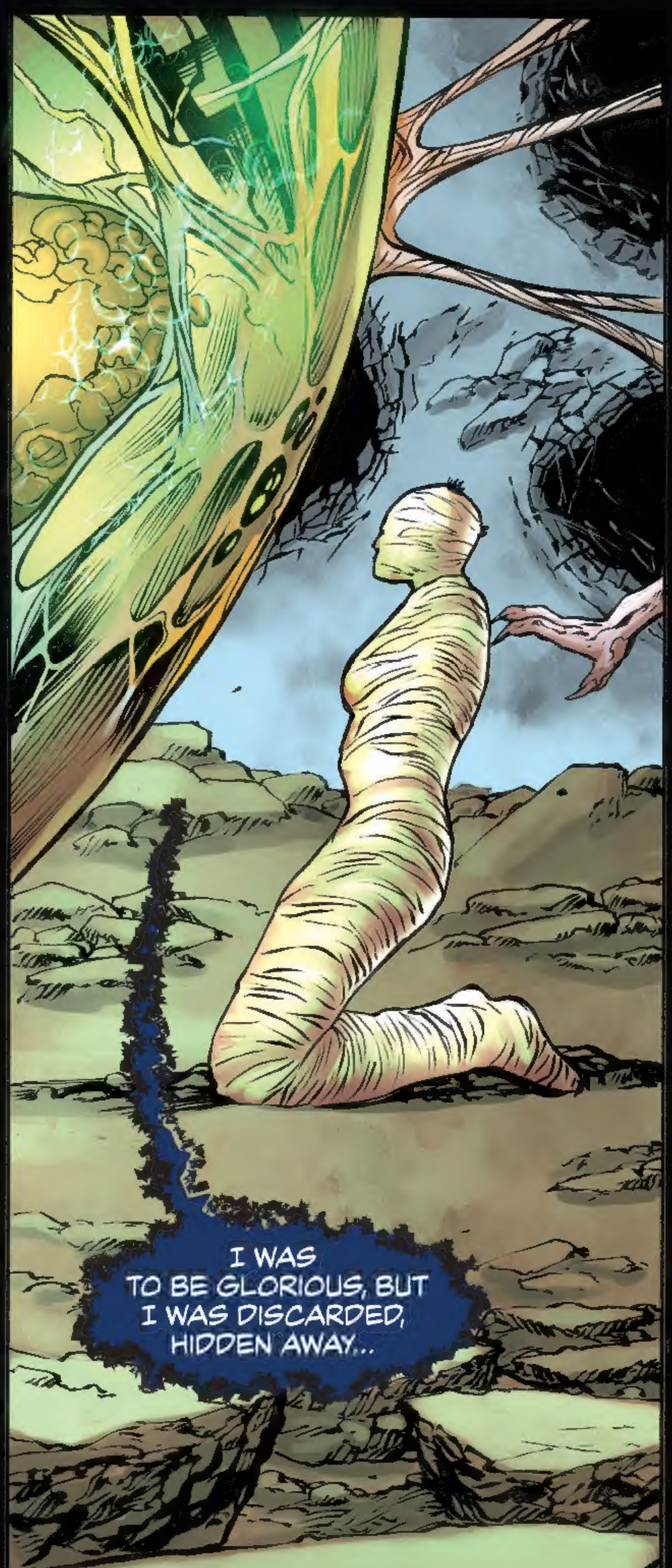
IT WANTS TO BE BORN.

WHAT...  
WHAT ARE YOU?



I AM THE STUFF OF DARKNESS, MOLDED AND SHAPED...

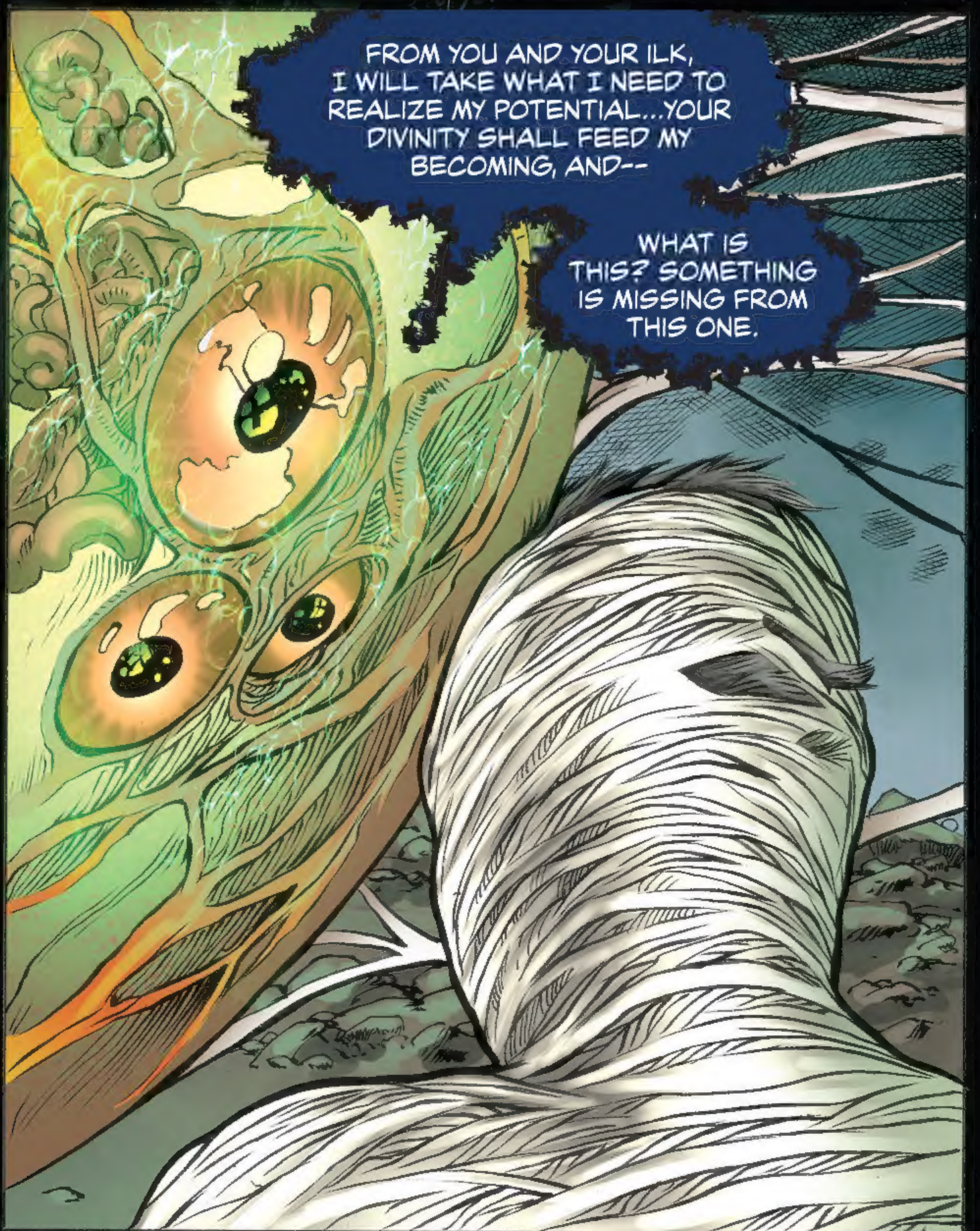
THE FIRST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING WONDROUS, BROUGHT FROM THE DEPTHS OF NOTHING.



I WAS TO BE GLORIOUS, BUT I WAS DISCARDED, HIDDEN AWAY...

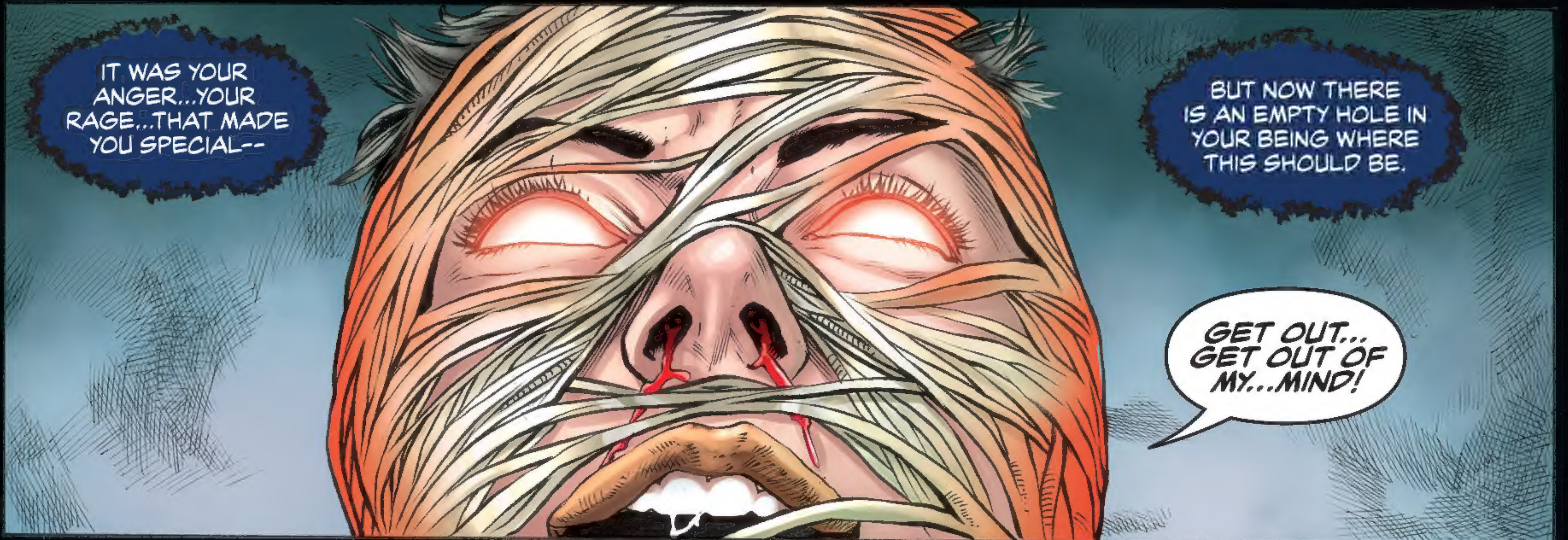


I WILL BE  
DENIED MY  
PURPOSE NO  
LONGER.



FROM YOU AND YOUR ILK,  
I WILL TAKE WHAT I NEED TO  
REALIZE MY POTENTIAL...YOUR  
DIVINITY SHALL FEED MY  
BECOMING, AND--

WHAT IS  
THIS? SOMETHING  
IS MISSING FROM  
THIS ONE.



IT WAS YOUR  
ANGER...YOUR  
RAGE...THAT MADE  
YOU SPECIAL--

BUT NOW THERE  
IS AN EMPTY HOLE IN  
YOUR BEING WHERE  
THIS SHOULD BE.

GET OUT...  
GET OUT OF  
MY...MIND!



"SHOW ME...  
WHERE?"

"WHERE HAVE  
YOU HIDDEN YOUR  
WRATH?"



FOR COUNTLESS  
CENTURIES HE HAS  
WALKED THE WORLD,  
WEARING MANY  
DIFFERENT GUISES,  
WORSHIPPED BY MANY.

NOW, HE IS CELEBRITY  
CROONER NICK HEART...

... DISPATCHED ON A SPECIAL MISSION TO RETRIEVE SOMETHING HIDDEN AWAY A VERY LONG TIME AGO.

A GODDESS' WRATH, BOUND AS A CURSE TO AN IMPERTINENT EGYPTIAN QUEEN.



THE GODS WERE IN DANGER, A DARK FORCE THREATENING, THEIR VERY EXISTENCE, AND NICK HEART WAS THEIR BEST CHANCE.

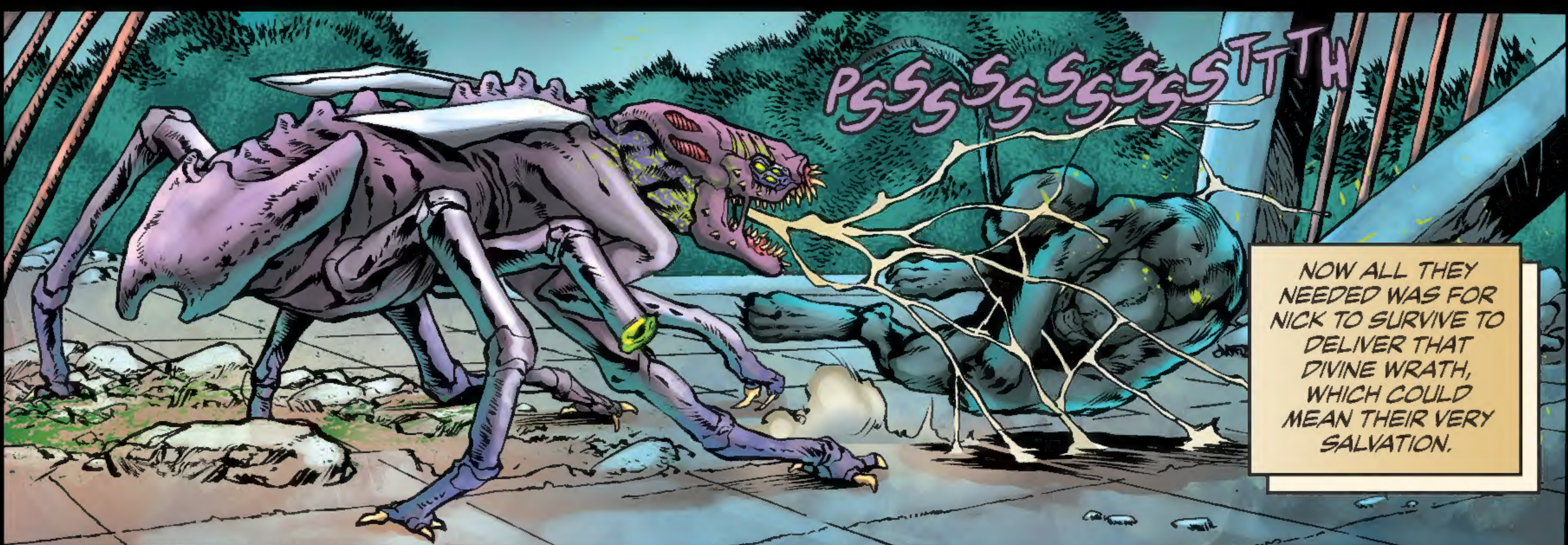
ROOOOARRRRG

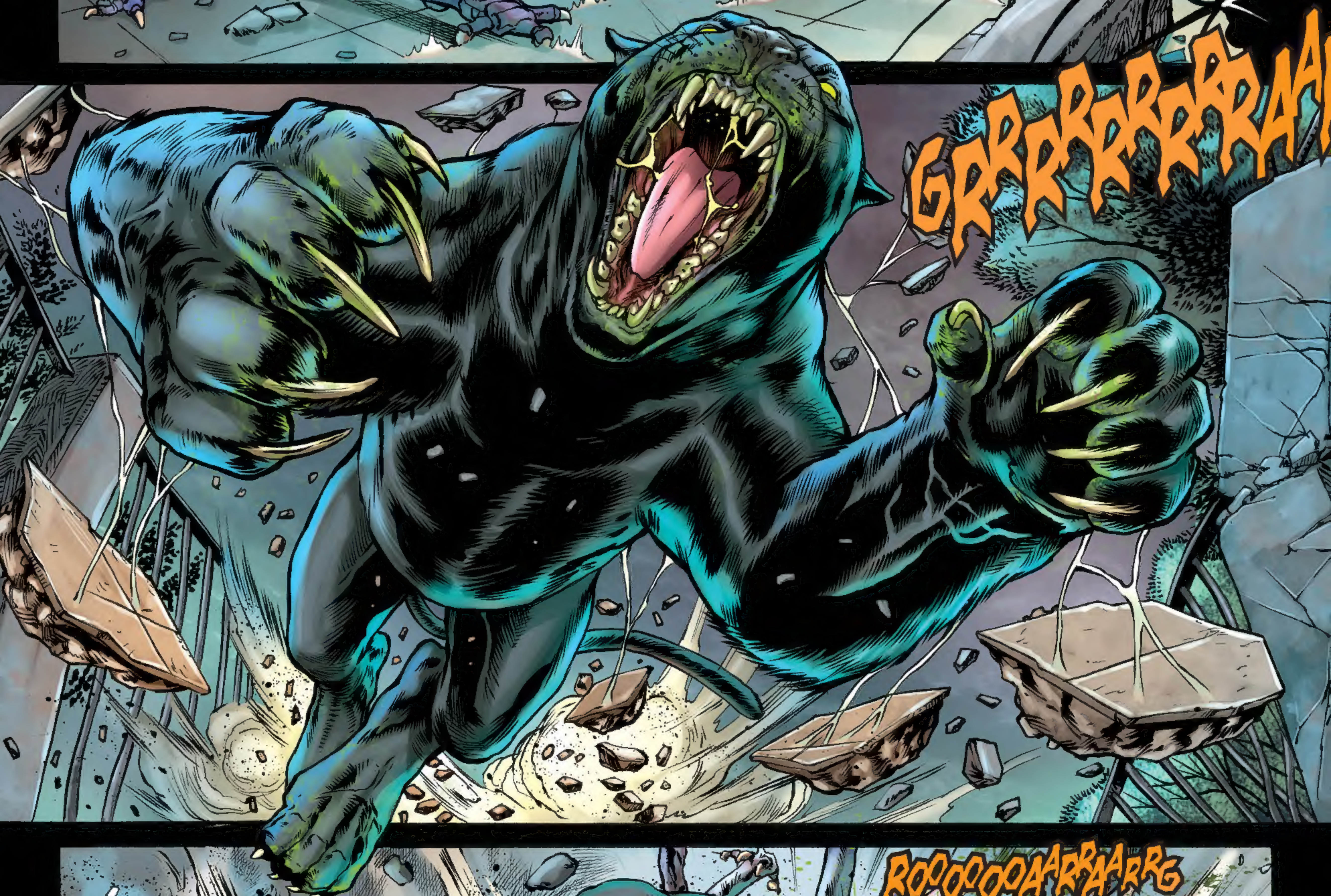
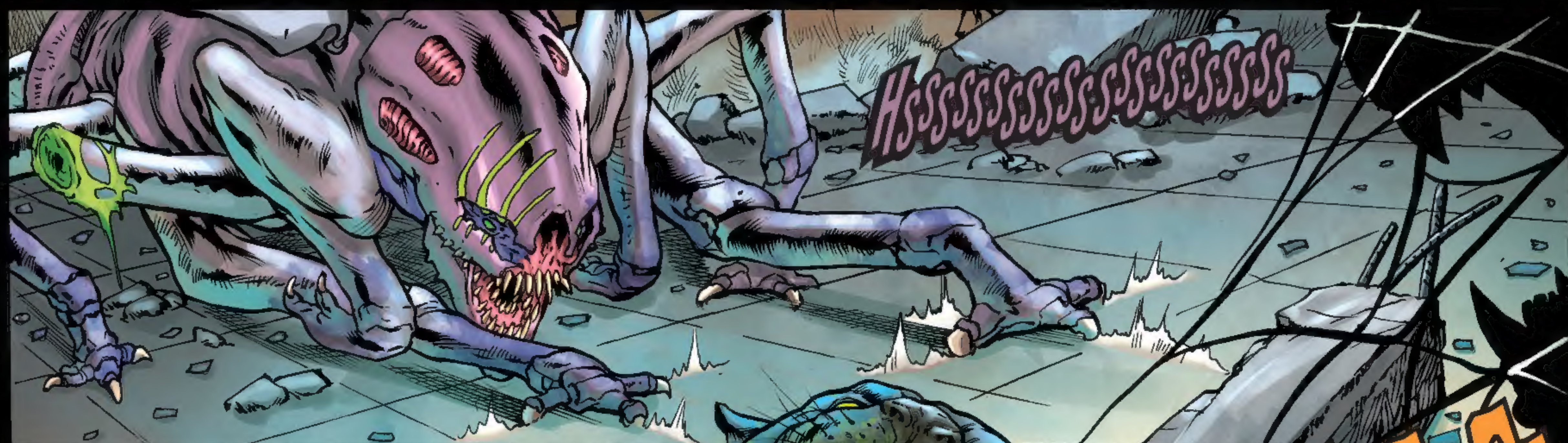
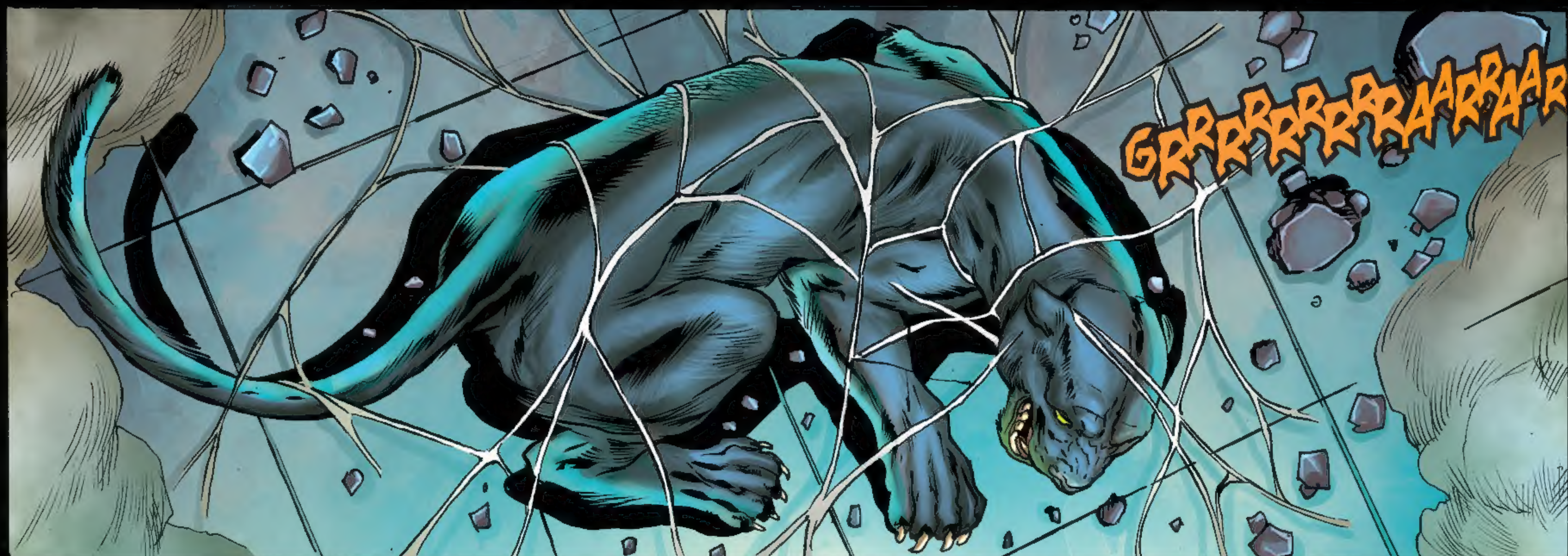
SLLLLAAASSH



PSSSSSSSTTH

NOW ALL THEY NEEDED WAS FOR NICK TO SURVIVE TO DELIVER THAT DIVINE WRATH, WHICH COULD MEAN THEIR VERY SALVATION.







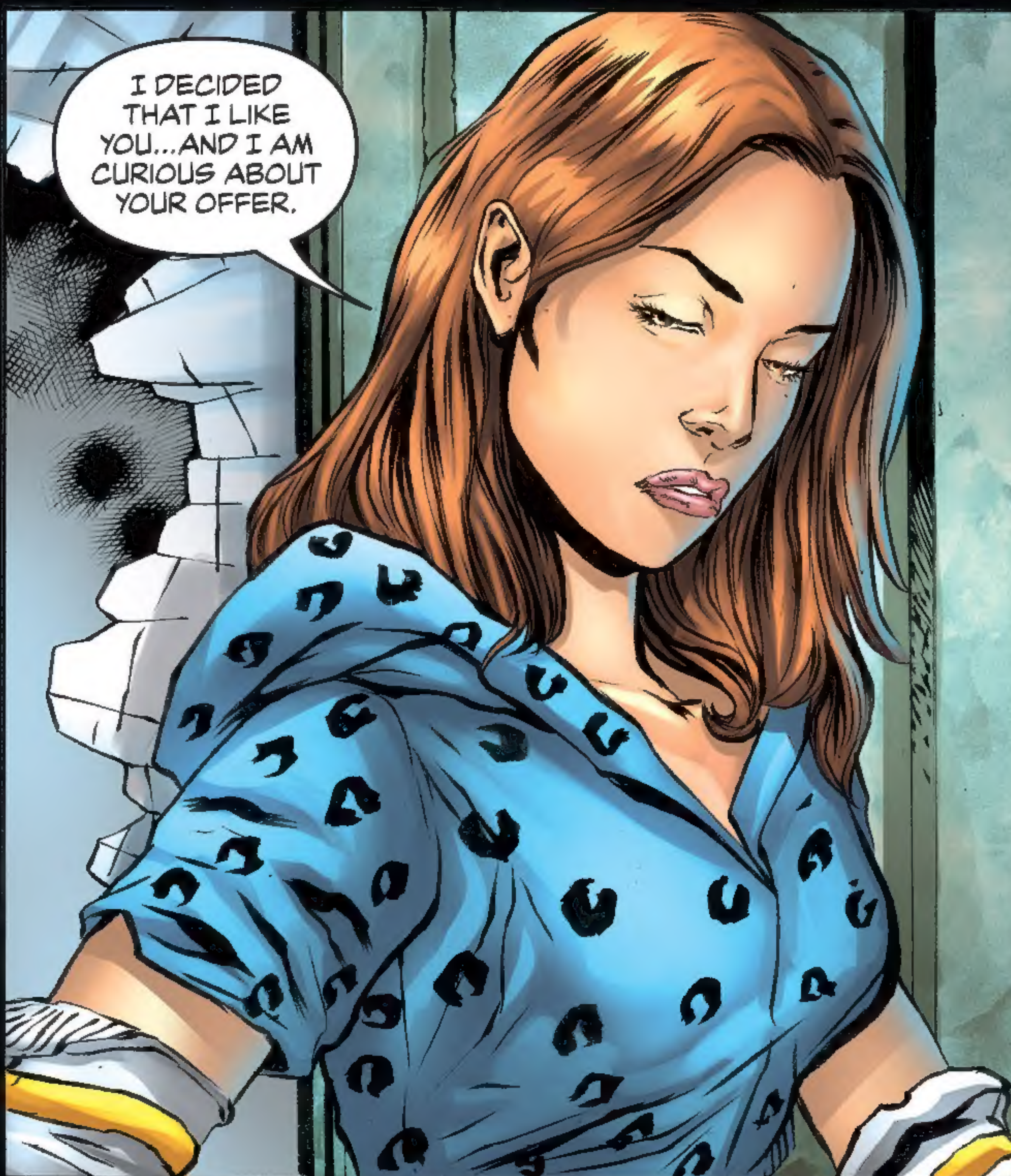


I GUESS I OWE YOU ONE...I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER.



DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GOING TO HELP ME. WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?

COULDN'T STAND SEEING A GUY GET EATEN BY A GIANT BUG?

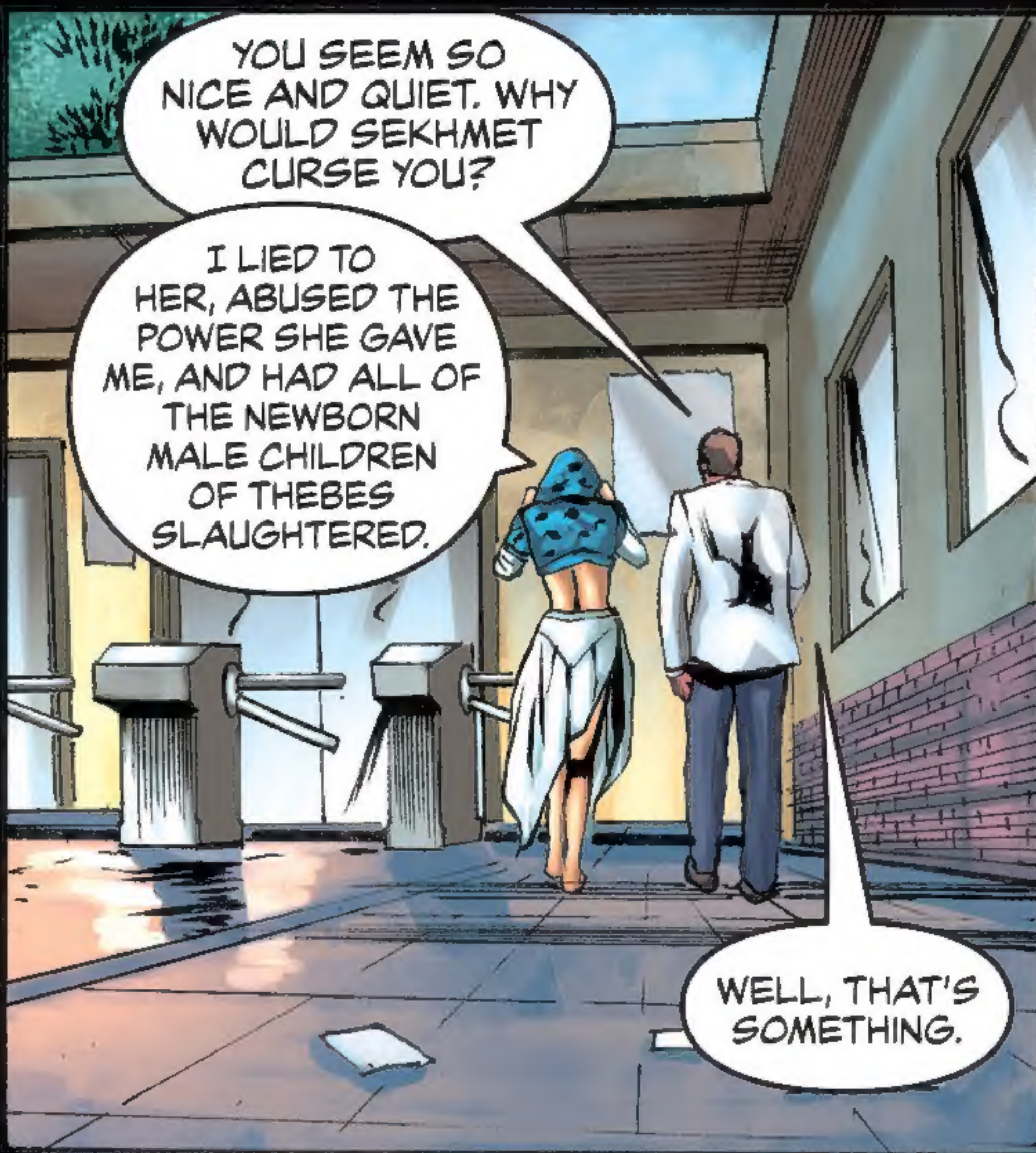


I DECIDED THAT I LIKE YOU...AND I AM CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR OFFER.



AND I LIKE YOU, TOO...NOT SO SURE ABOUT YOUR SCARY OTHER SIDE, THOUGH. NO OFFENSE.

BEFORE WE GET OUT OF HERE, LET'S TRY AND MAKE SURE NO MORE EIGHT-LEGGED VISITORS FOLLOW US.



YOU SEEM SO NICE AND QUIET. WHY WOULD SEKHMET CURSE YOU?

I LIED TO HER, ABUSED THE POWER SHE GAVE ME, AND HAD ALL OF THE NEWBORN MALE CHILDREN OF THEBES SLAUGHTERED.

WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING.

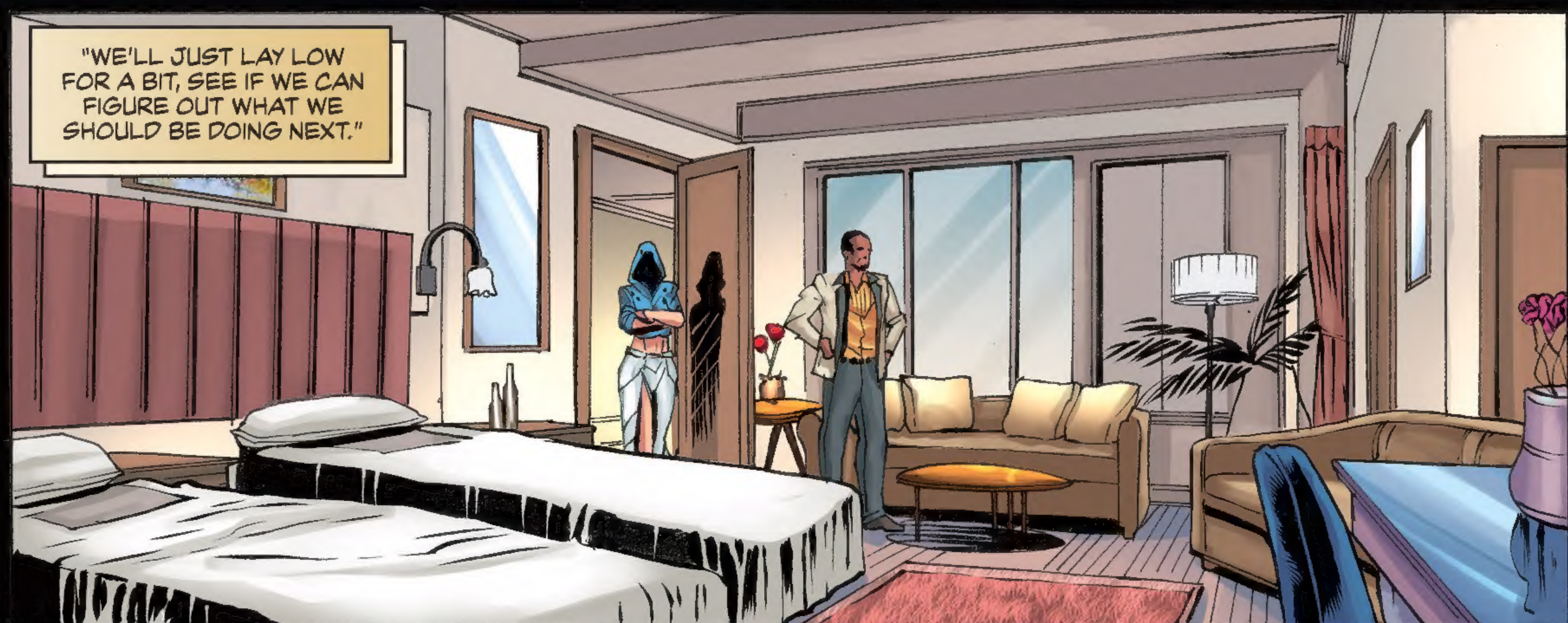


SEKHMET SUSPECTED THAT THERE WAS A THREAT LURKING OUT THERE AGAINST THE GODS, AND AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE WAS RIGHT.



THE GATHERING WAS ATTACKED, AND I MANAGED TO GET AWAY.

MY ASSIGNMENT WAS TO FIND YOU AND BRING YOU BACK TO SEKHMET, BUT I THINK I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO MADE IT OUT.



"WE'LL JUST LAY LOW FOR A BIT, SEE IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING NEXT."



YOU ARE HURT.

LOOK AT THAT, THE BUG GOT ME.



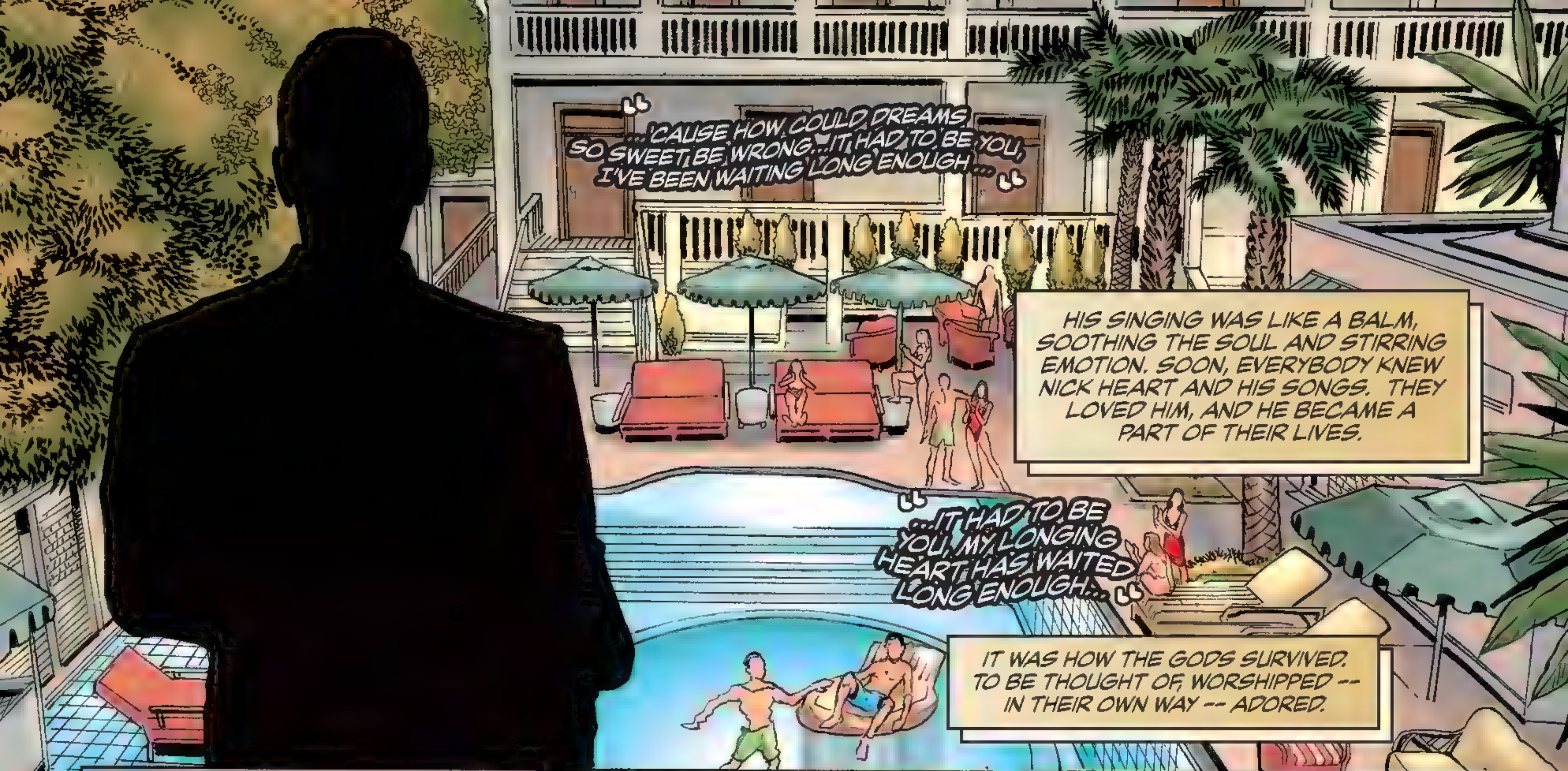
WE SHOULD TEND TO THAT WOUND BEFORE--

DON'T YOU WORRY, I KNOW WHAT TO DO.



NICK HEART EXPLODED ONTO THE MUSIC SCENE IN THE FALL OF 1962. NOBODY HAD EVER HEARD OF HIM, BUT AS SOON AS THEY HEARD HIM SING, THEY KNEW HE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL.

IT HAD TO BE YOU... THE ONE THAT I'D BEEN DREAMING OF FOR SO VERY LONG... IT HAD TO BE YOU...



... 'CAUSE HOW COULD DREAMS  
SO SWEET BE WRONG... IT HAD TO BE YOU,  
I'VE BEEN WAITING LONG ENOUGH...

HIS SINGING WAS LIKE A BALM,  
SOOTHING THE SOUL AND STIRRING  
EMOTION. SOON, EVERYBODY KNEW  
NICK HEART AND HIS SONGS. THEY  
LOVED HIM, AND HE BECAME A  
PART OF THEIR LIVES.

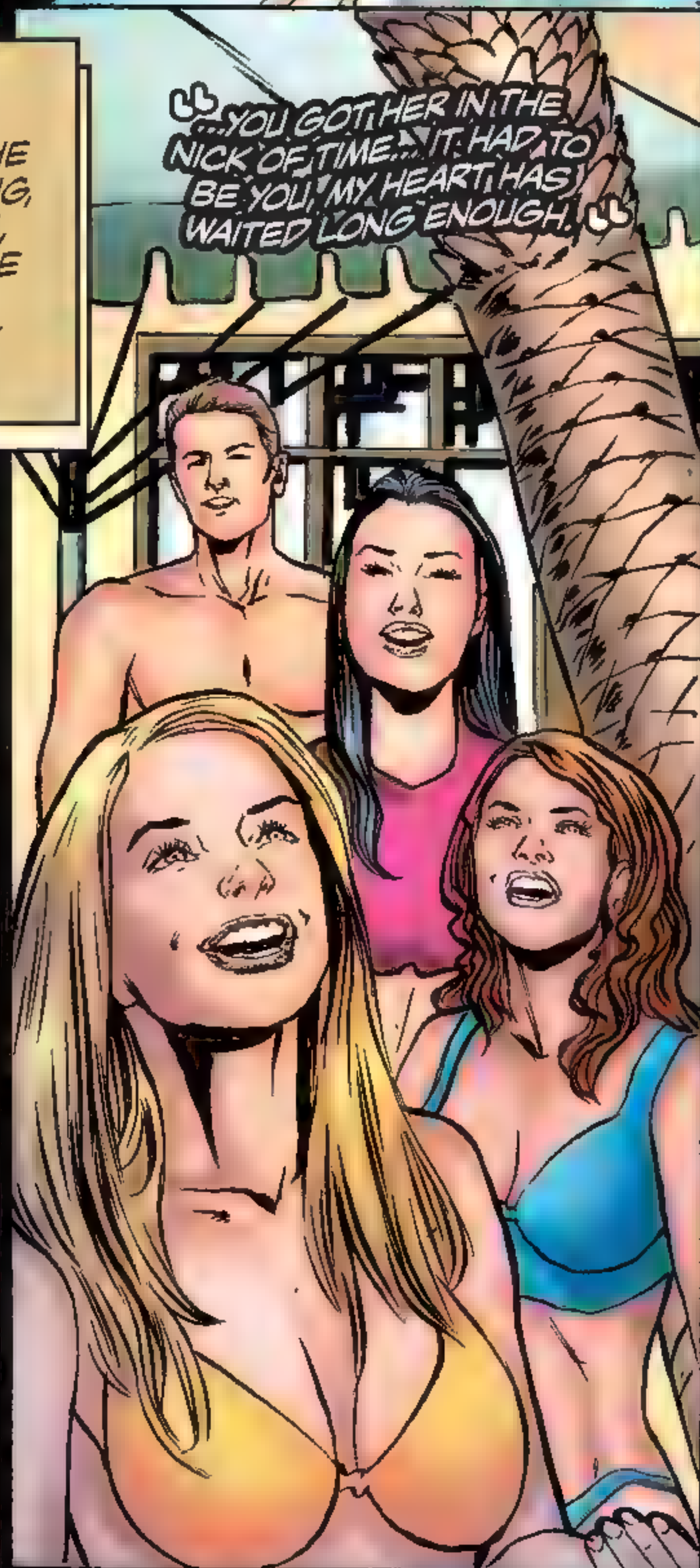
... IT HAD TO BE  
YOU, MY LONGING  
HEART HAS WAITED  
LONG ENOUGH...

IT WAS HOW THE GODS SURVIVED.  
TO BE THOUGHT OF, WORSHIPPED --  
IN THEIR OWN WAY -- ADORED.



... AT LONG LAST  
YOU'RE HERE WITH  
ME... I COULDN'T  
HAVE WAITED ANY  
LONGER...

IT WAS  
THEIR LOVE  
OF HIM, AND THE  
SONGS HE SANG,  
THAT FED HIM,  
THAT KEPT THE  
GOD NOW  
CALLED NICK  
HEART ALIVE.



... YOU GOT HER IN THE  
NICK OF TIME... IT HAD TO  
BE YOU, MY HEART HAS  
WAITED LONG ENOUGH...

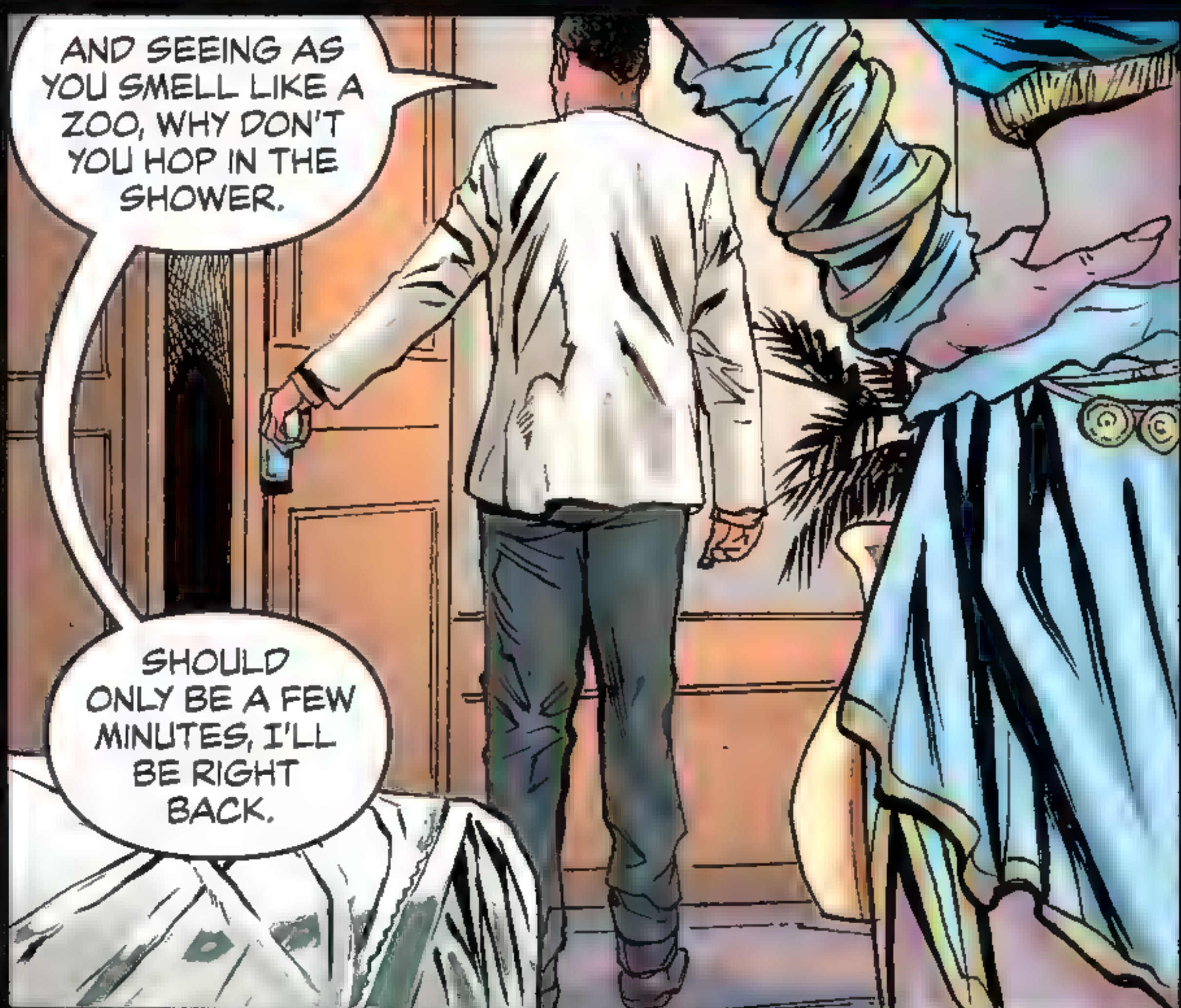


YOUR SONG...  
HEALED YOU.

NOT  
THE SONG  
PER SE.  
FOLKS'  
MEMORIES OF  
THE SONG  
AND OF THE  
GUY WHO  
SANG IT,  
FIXED ME  
UP.



NOW THAT WE GOT  
THAT OUT OF THE WAY, I'M  
GOING TO HEAD DOWN TO  
HOTEL GIFT SHOP AND  
GET US SOME CLEAN  
CLOTHES.



AND SEEING AS  
YOU SMELL LIKE A  
ZOO, WHY DON'T  
YOU HOP IN THE  
SHOWER.

SHOULD  
ONLY BE A FEW  
MINUTES, I'LL  
BE RIGHT  
BACK.

THE SCALDING WATER WASHES AWAY THE DIRT AND GRIME, THIS BEING ONE OF THE FEW BENEFITS OF CIVILIZATION THAT SHE ACTUALLY ENJOYS.

SHE FINDS HERSELF BEGINNING TO RELAX BENEATH THE WARM CASCADE, HER THOUGHTS WANDERING TO PLACES SHE SELDOM ALLOWS HERSELF TO GO.

WHAT IF? WHAT IF SEKHMET'S CURSE WERE LIFTED?

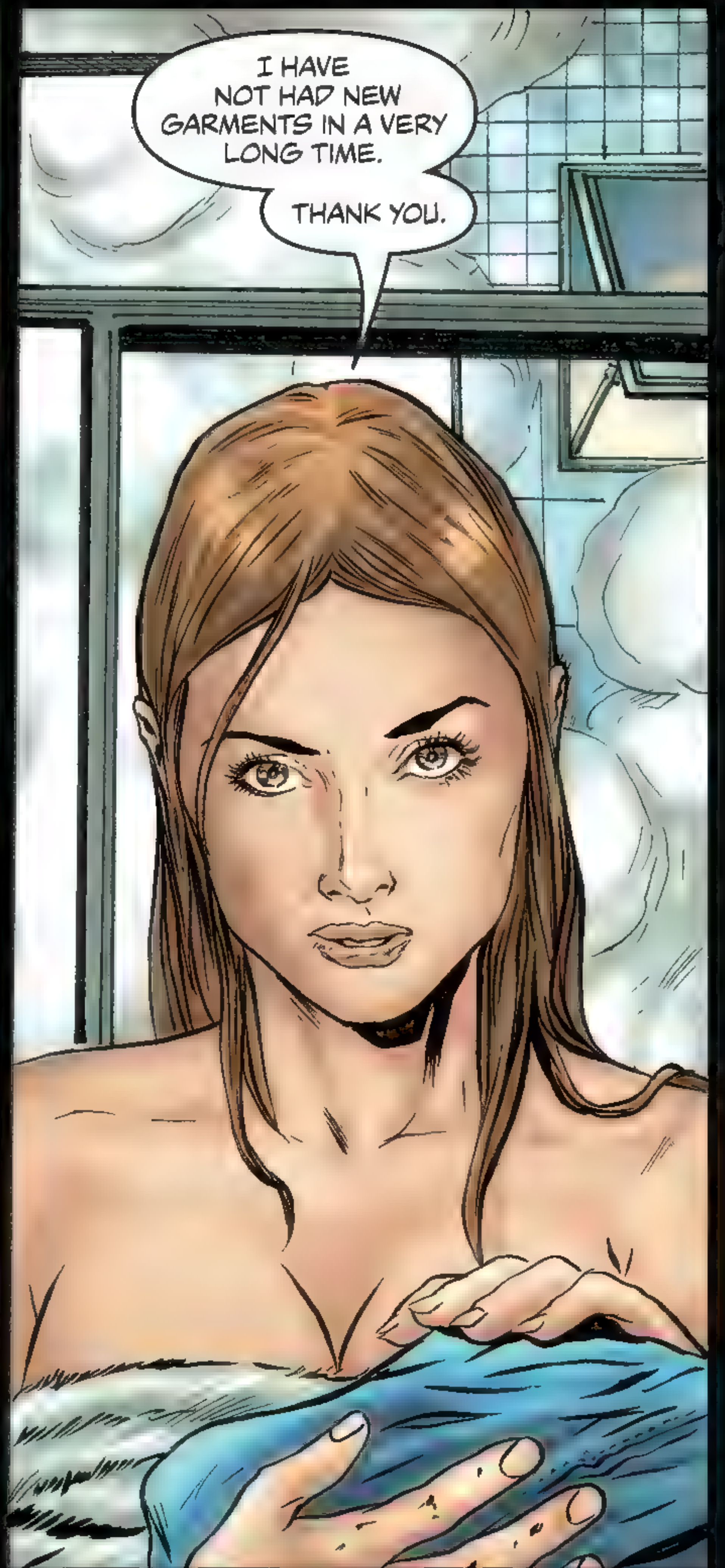
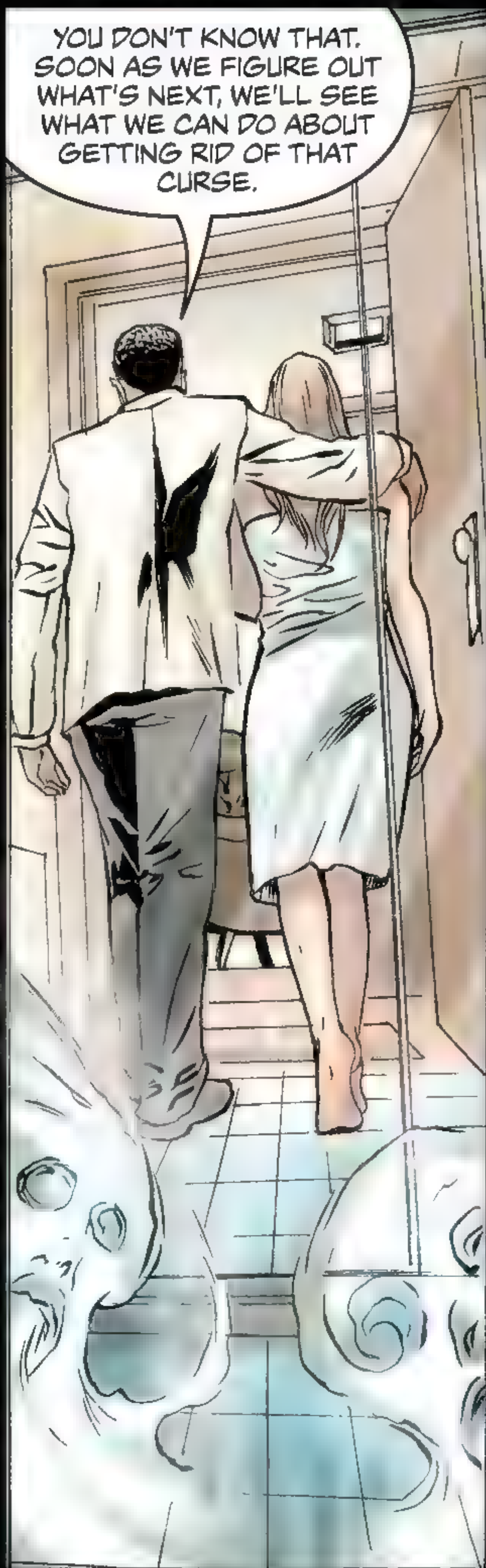
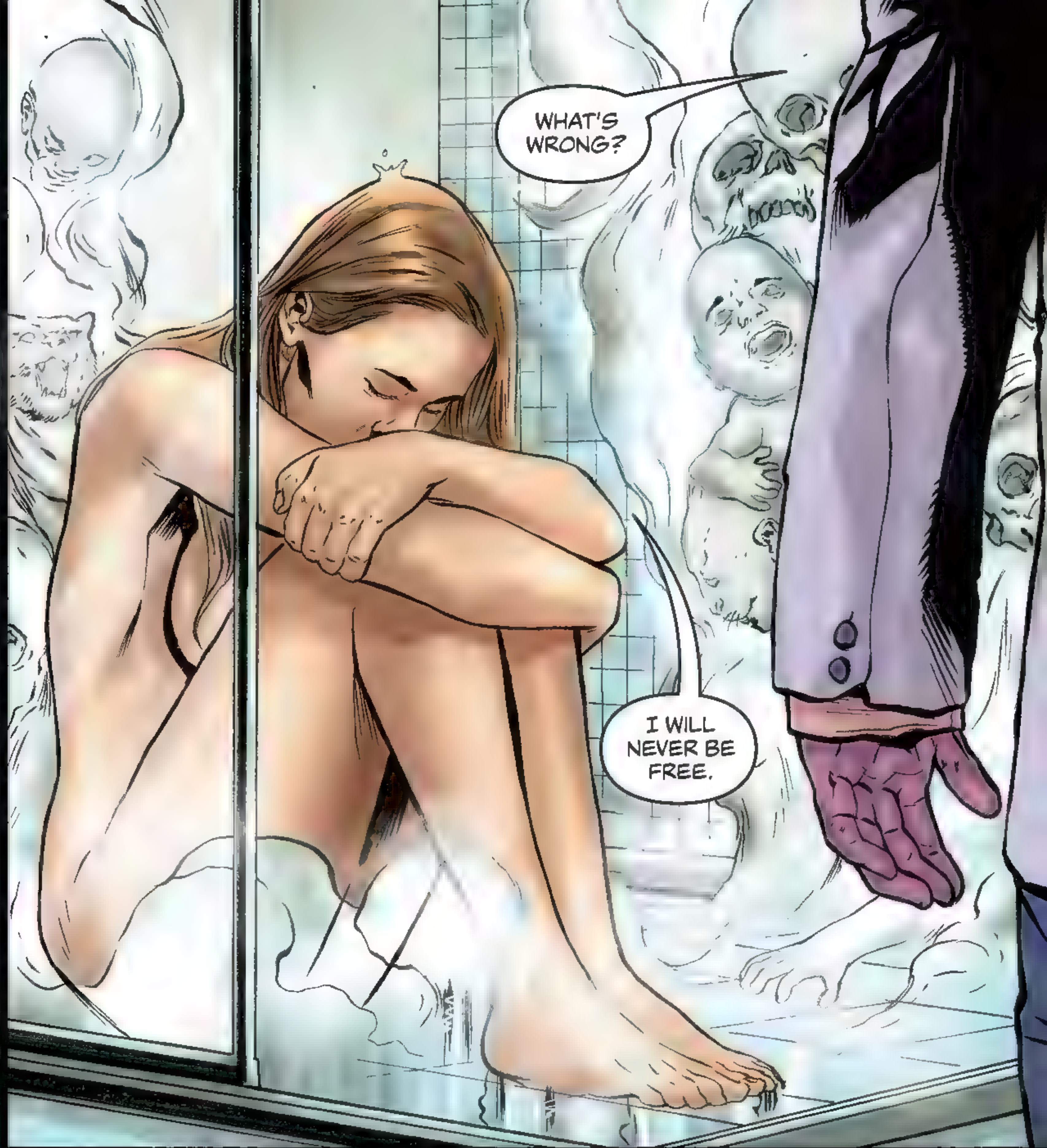
WHAT WOULD THAT BE LIKE?

THAT IS SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER KNOW, MY QUEEN.

THE WEIGHT OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR BURDEN--

DRAPED UPON YOUR BODY LIKE A DEATH SHROUD.







"SO, DO YOU WANT TO EAT SOMETHING, OR ARE YOU GOING TO STAND THERE ALL NIGHT?"



THIS CLOTHING FEELS...SOFT. I HAVE NEVER FELT A TEXTURE SUCH AS THIS.



PHYLLIS IN THE GIFT SHOP SAID THIS STYLE IS ALL THE RAGE NOW, SO YOU'LL FIT RIGHT IN.

COME SIT DOWN AND HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT, AND WE CAN DISCUSS OUR NEXT MOVE.



I DID NOT KNOW THAT THE GODS ATE.



I'M SURE THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF STUFF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT US. WE DON'T NEED TO EAT, BUT WE LIKE TO.

WE'VE PICKED UP QUITE A FEW OF HUMANITY'S HABITS, EVEN SOME OF THE BAD ONES.

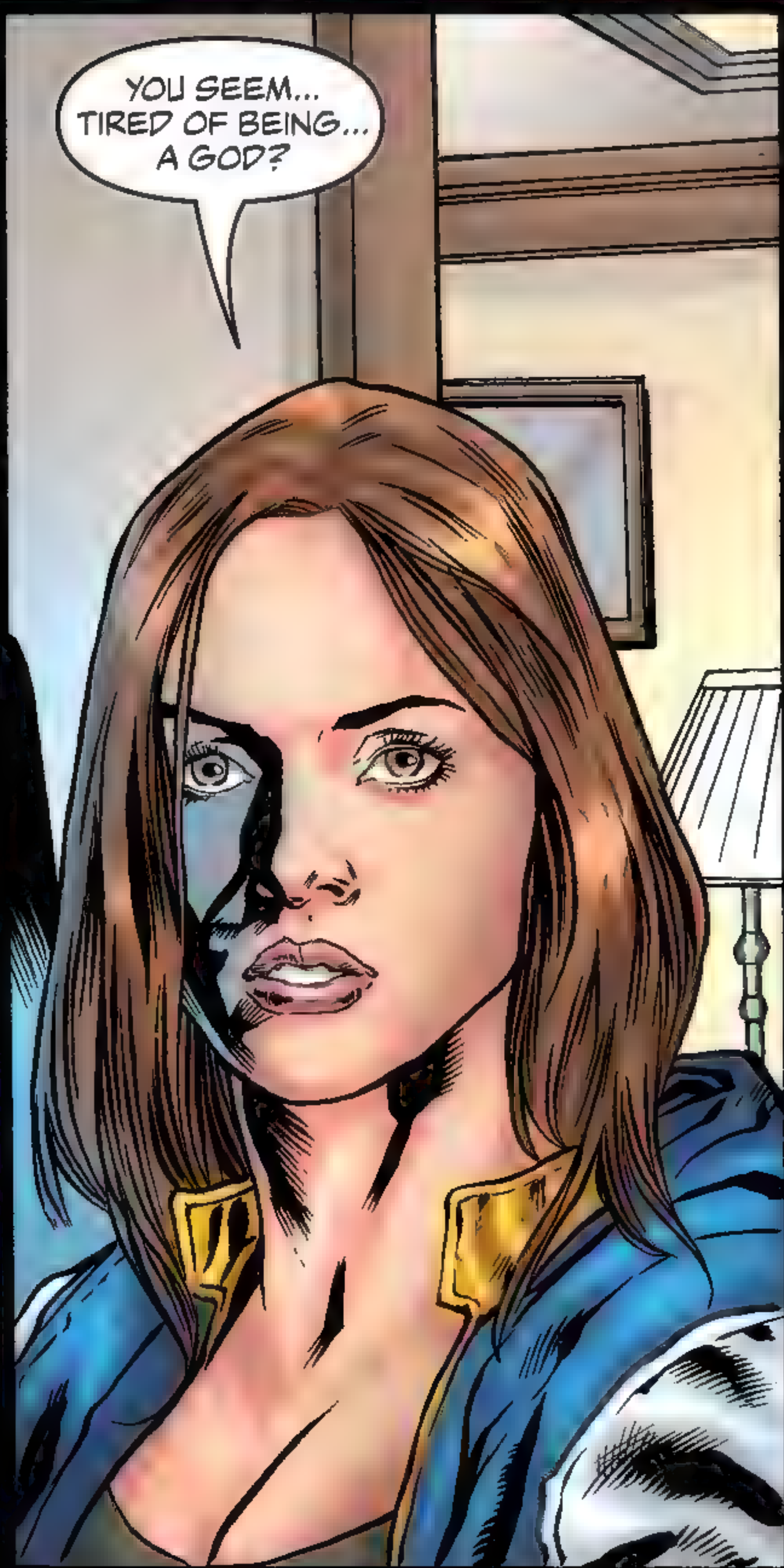


ONE CAN  
PICK UP MANY BAD  
HABITS OVER THE  
CENTURIES.

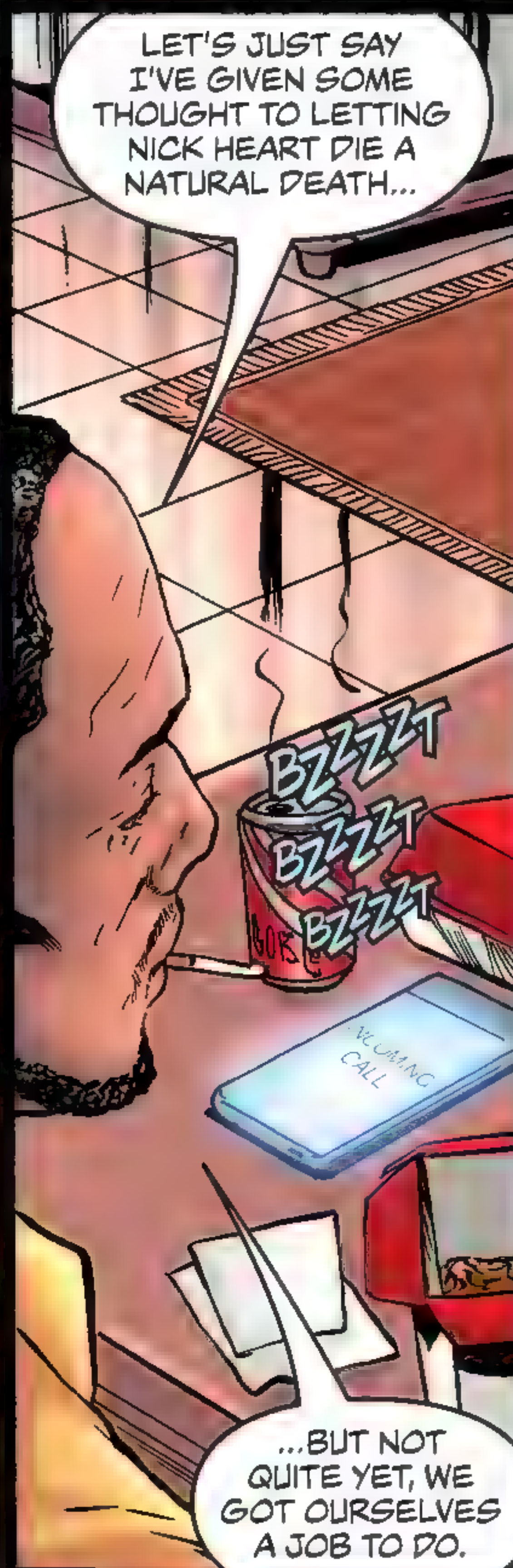


AIN'T THAT THE  
TRUTH. I'VE HAD SO  
MANY DIFFERENT  
PERSONAS, AND EACH  
AND EVERY ONE HAD  
THEIR VICES.

SERIOUSLY WONDER  
WHEN -- OR IF -- I GET THE  
CHANCE TO PICK MY NEW  
FORM, IF THERE'LL BE ANY  
MORE BAD BEHAVIORS TO  
CHOOSE FROM.



YOU SEEM...  
TIRED OF BEING...  
A GOD?



LET'S JUST SAY  
I'VE GIVEN SOME  
THOUGHT TO LETTING  
NICK HEART DIE A  
NATURAL DEATH...

...BUT NOT  
QUITE YET, WE  
GOT OURSELVES  
A JOB TO DO.



HEY THERE,  
GLAD YOU CALLED  
ME BACK. WE GOT  
A PROBLEM.





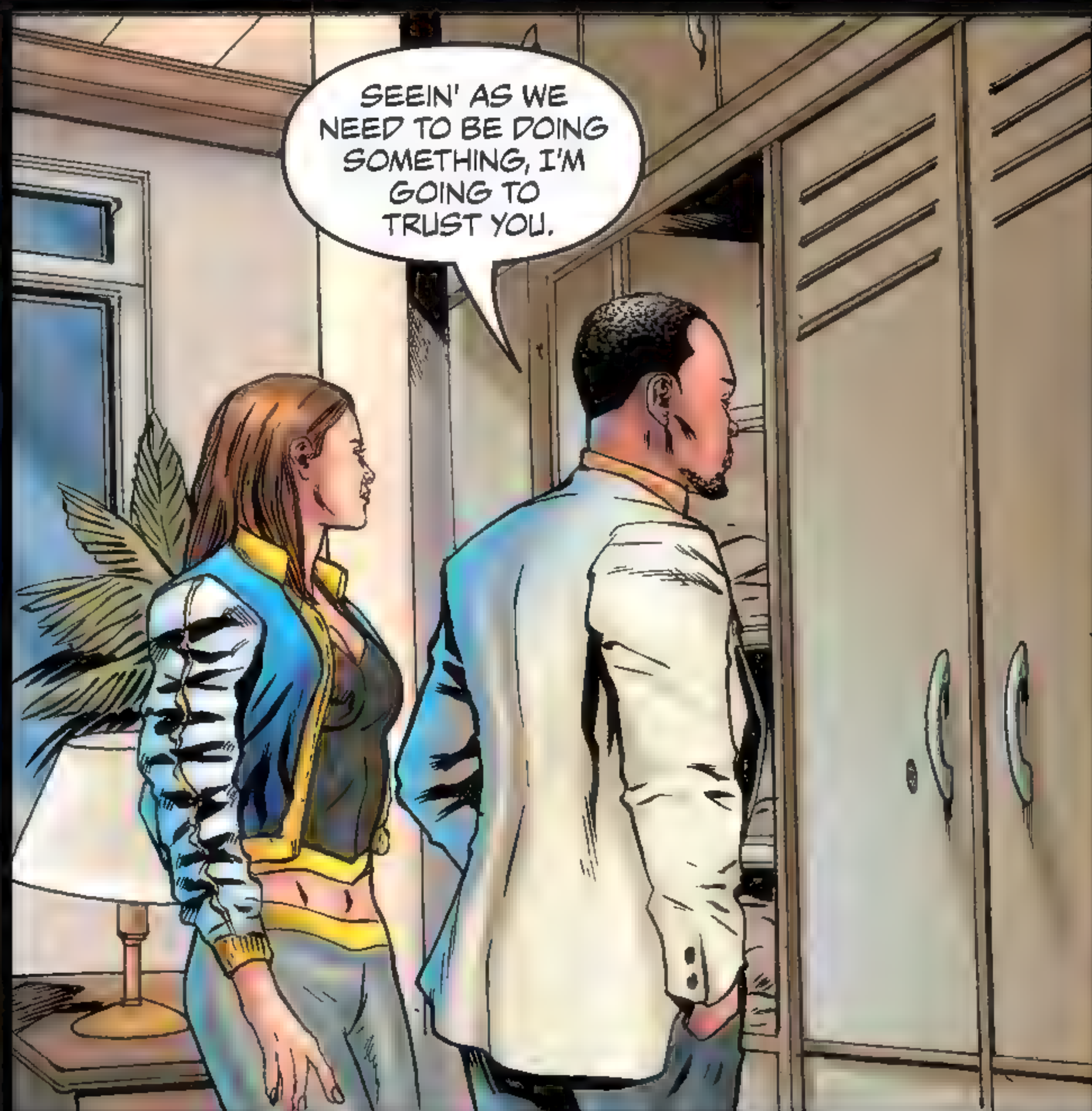
SO SET WANTS US  
TO GET TO HIS PLACE  
PRONTO, AND THE ONLY WAY  
TO DO THAT IS BY USING  
THE GODPATHS, BUT...

I BELIEVE  
THE PATHS ARE  
SAFE.



AND  
HOW WOULD  
YOU KNOW  
THAT?

I HAVE  
KILLED ONE OF  
THOSE THINGS. I  
HAVE TASTED ITS  
BLOOD, I KNOW  
ITS SCENT.



SEEMIN' AS WE  
NEED TO BE DOING  
SOMETHING, I'M  
GOING TO  
TRUST YOU.



IF ANYBODY  
CAN FIGURE OUT  
WHAT WE SHOULD  
BE DOING NEXT,  
IT'S SET.



EVEN IF HE  
IS A BIT OF AN  
ASSHOLE.

SET CURRENTLY GOES BY THE NAME OF DARIAN BLACKWOOD, C.E.O. OF BLACKWOOD MUNITIONS, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING MUNITIONS MANUFACTURERS.

THE GOD SET... MAKES WEAPONS?

WEAPONS IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT, MY DEAR. BLACKWOOD IS ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF WEAPONS DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.

AS WE TALK, MY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM HAS PROBABLY COME UP WITH SIXTY NEW WAYS TO KILL.

HELLO, I'HY, WHAT ARE THEY CALLING YOU THESE DAYS? NICK?

THAT'S RIGHT, **DARIAN**, NICK IT IS. AND THIS IS SAMIRA.

~SNIFF! SNIFF!~

YOU CAN SET MY DRINK DOWN, TIFFANY.

SO YOU'RE THE ONE TO BEAR SEKHMET'S WRATH. INTERESTING. AND EXACTLY HOW DOES THIS CURSE MANIFEST, IF I MAY ASK?

I...

SHE TURNS INTO A BLACK PANTHER.

...SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT.

NO, EVERYTHING IS PERFECT.



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

NICK?

CH-CHAK  
CH-CHAK

CH-CHAK



I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, NICK, BUT JUST KNOWING THAT THIS SWEET THING IS HOLDING ON TO SEKHMET'S WRATH IS MAKING ME CRAZY. I NEED TO HAVE IT.



"JUST THINK OF THE KINDS OF WEAPONS I COULD CREATE WITH *THAT*."

LET'S MAKE THIS EASY, LADY. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GET ROUGH.

GRRRRRR



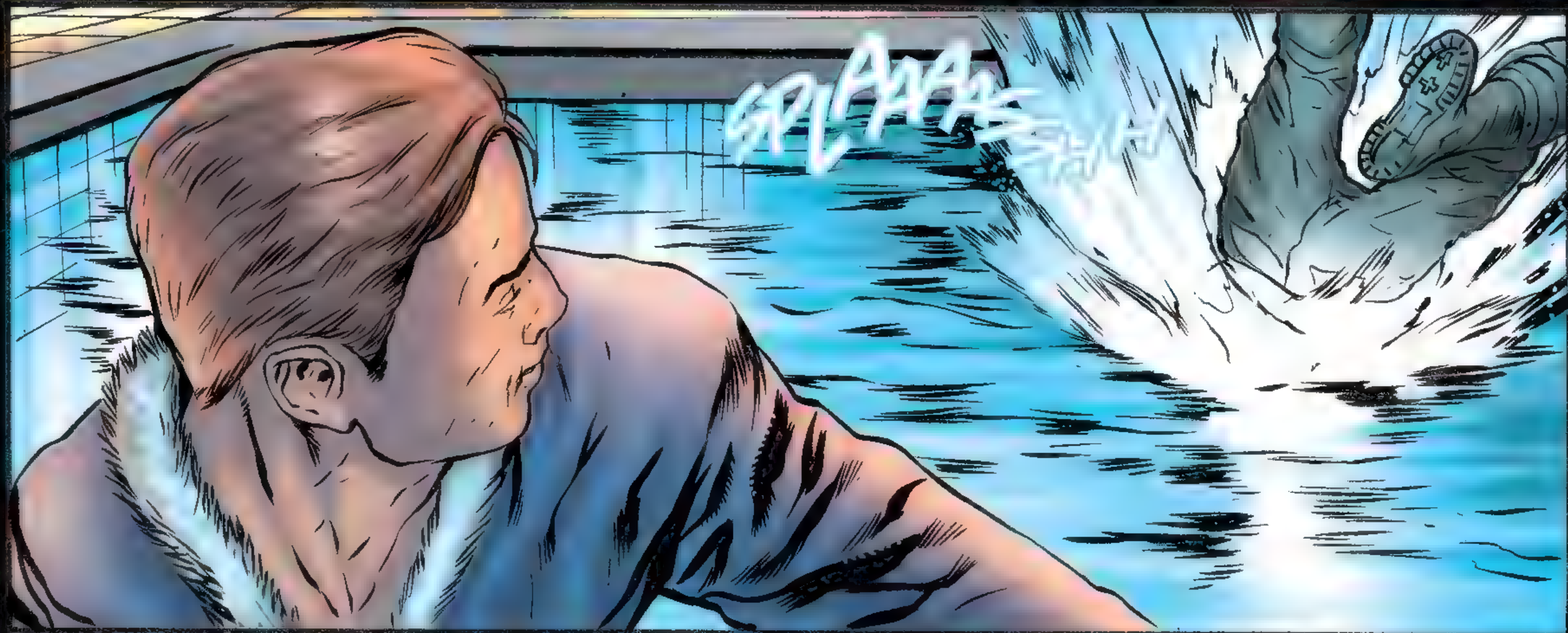
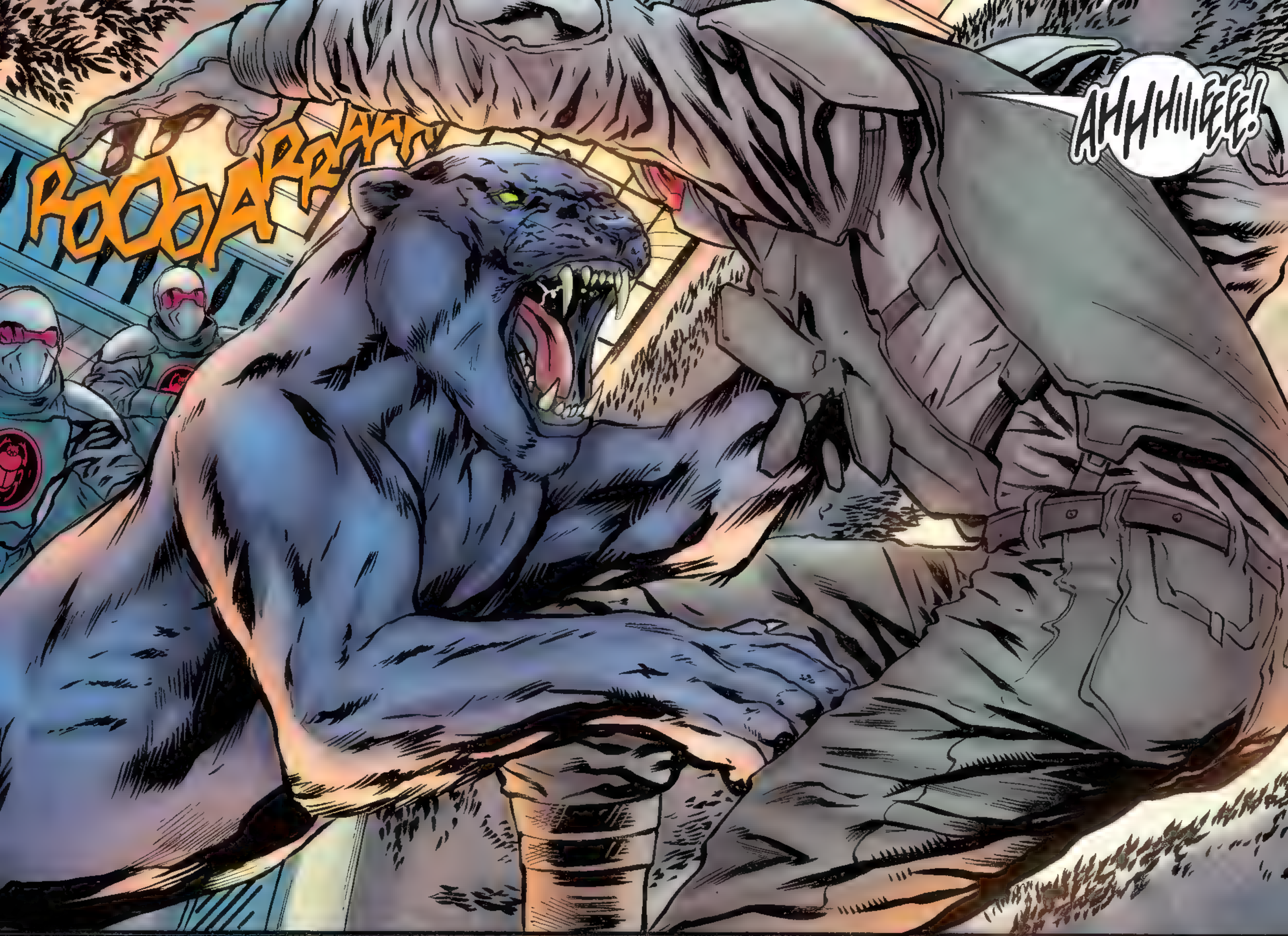
"SLAP THOSE MAGIC DAMPENING CUFFS ON HER, JUST IN CASE THE WRATH GETS A LITTLE FRISKY."

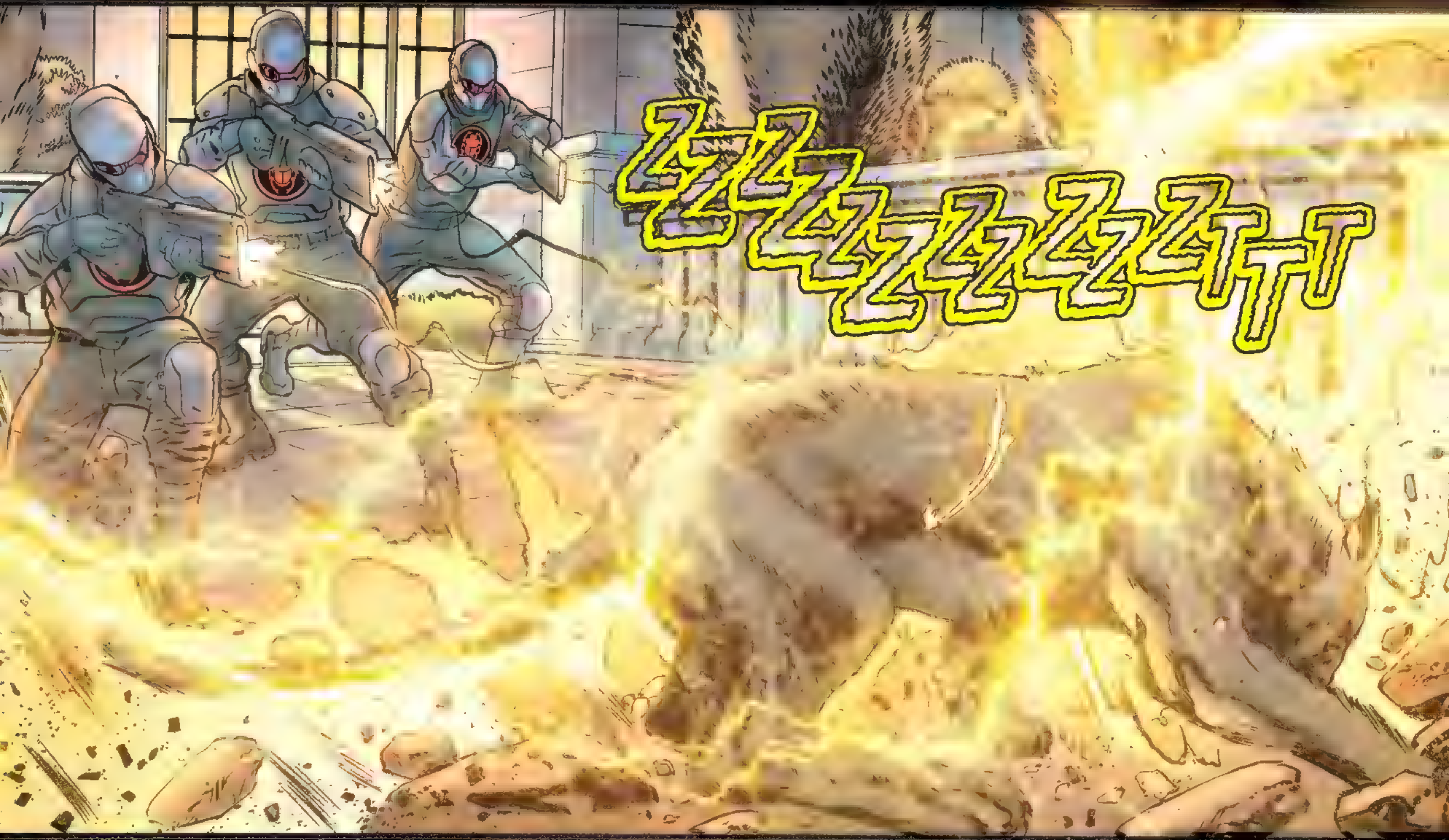
GIVE US YOUR HANDS! NOW!

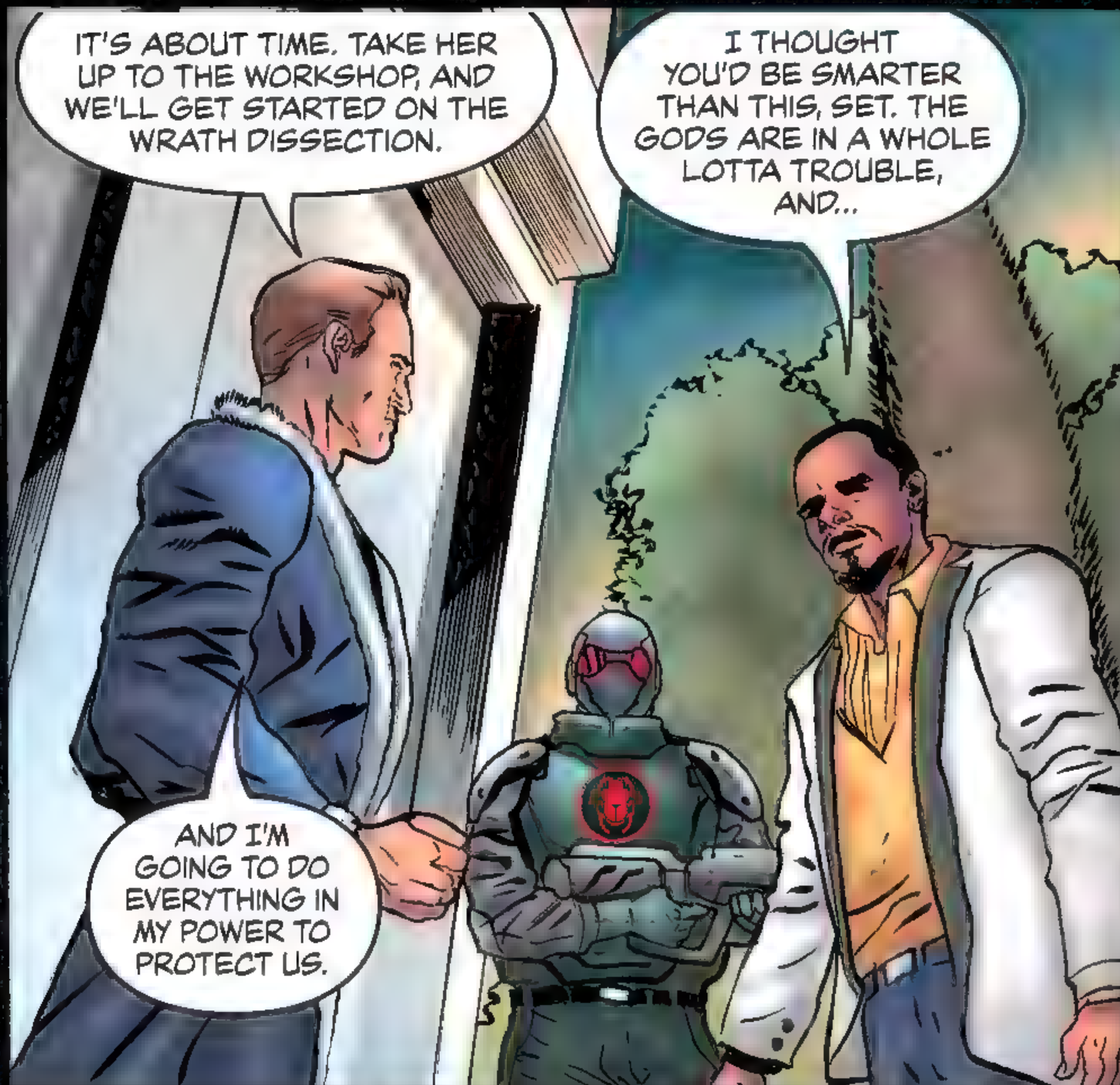
GRRRRRR



THINK YOU GUYS ARE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE.







IT'S ABOUT TIME. TAKE HER UP TO THE WORKSHOP, AND WE'LL GET STARTED ON THE WRATH DISSECTION.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SMARTER THAN THIS, SET. THE GODS ARE IN A WHOLE LOTTA TROUBLE, AND...

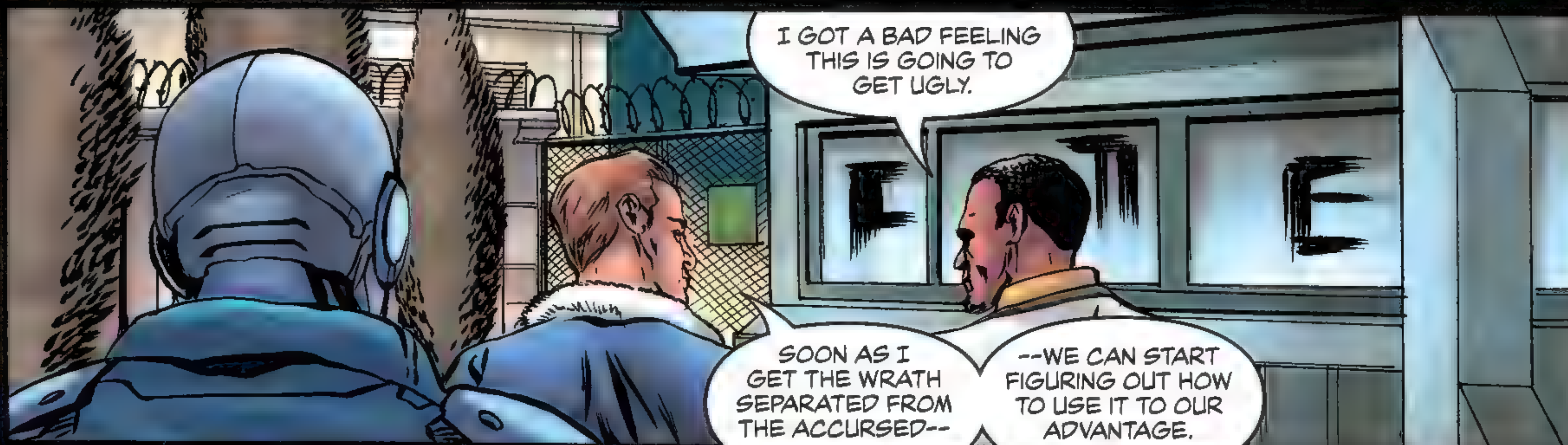
AND I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROTECT US.



"LET'S GO TO THE HOUSE FOR A DRINK. WE'LL TALK."

MAN, SHE'S HEAVY FOR SUCH A SMALL THING.

I'D RATHER BE LIFTING HER THAN THE CAT.



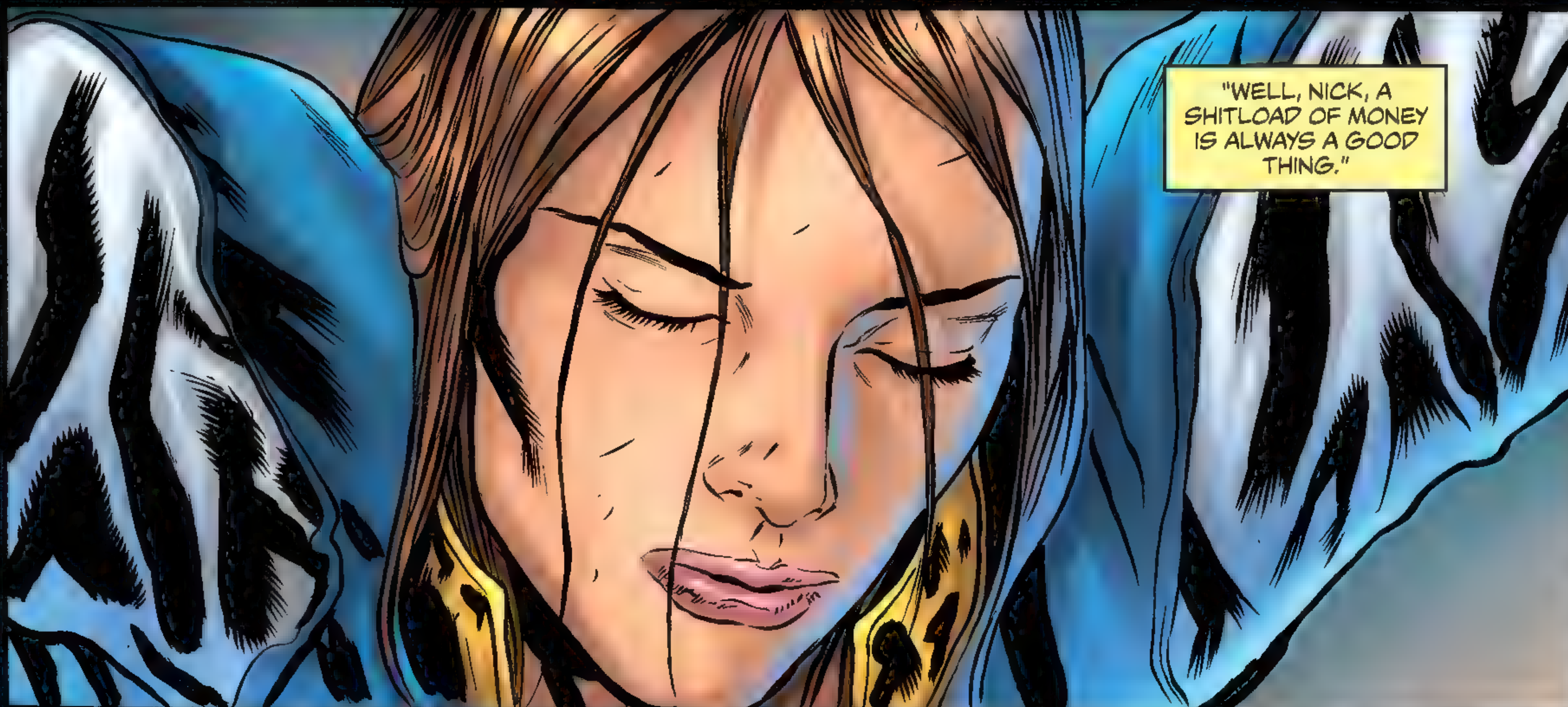
I GOT A BAD FEELING THIS IS GOING TO GET UGLY.

SOON AS I GET THE WRATH SEPARATED FROM THE ACCURSED--

--WE CAN START FIGURING OUT HOW TO USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.



"AND MAYBE MAKE A SHITLOAD OF MONEY WHILE YOU'RE AT IT?"



"WELL, NICK, A SHITLOAD OF MONEY IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING."

IT CALLS ITSELF TA-NAKHT, A  
THROWBACK TO THE DAWN OF CREATION,  
BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GODS.

SOMETHING THAT NEVER  
QUITE GOT TO "BE". AND  
YET, IT SURVIVED.

NOW IT IS TRYING TO  
ACHIEVE ITS PURPOSE, TO  
BECOME WHAT IT WAS  
INTENDED TO BE...

...BUT IN ORDER TO DO  
THAT, IT MUST FEED ON  
WHAT CAME AFTER ITS  
INCEPTION.

TA-NAKHT KNOWS THAT THE  
GODDESS IS INCOMPLETE, THAT  
A POWERFUL PART OF HER WAS  
REMOVED LONG AGO, AND WANTS  
WHAT IT HAS BEEN DENIED.

IT HAS SEEN WHAT THIS  
POWER -- THIS WRATH -- IS  
CAPABLE OF THROUGH THE EYES  
OF ITS DRONES, AND DECIDED  
THAT IT MUST BE CAUTIOUS...

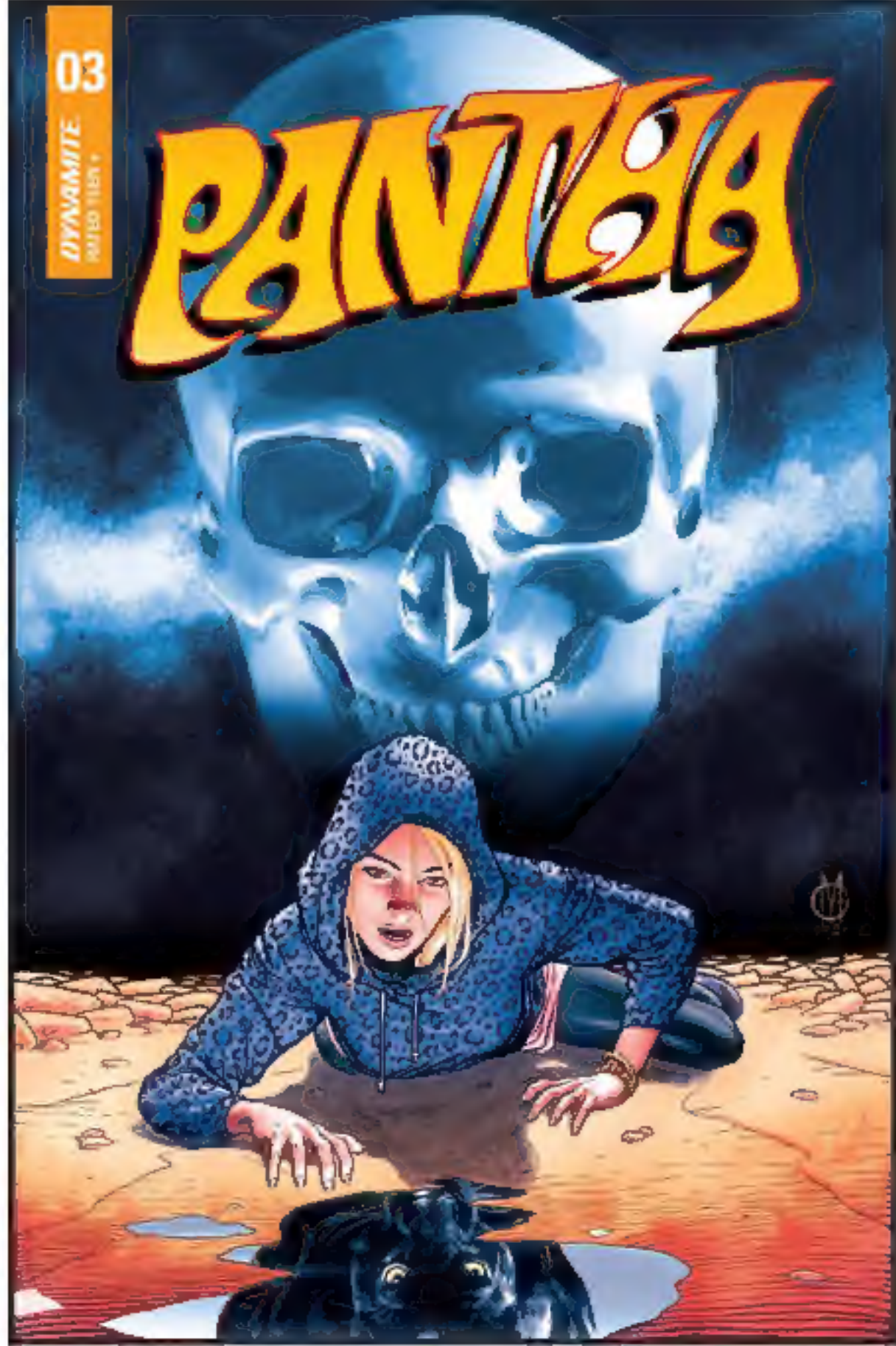
...THAT IT  
MUST CREATE  
SOMETHING  
NEW...

... SOMETHING MORE  
CAPABLE OF DEALING  
WITH THE WAYWARD  
ANCIENT FORCE.



...DANGEROUS.

NEXT. BY THE GODS!



## NEXT ISSUE

Darian Blackwood, CEO of Blackwood Munition (not to mention the Egyptian god of war and chaos), has taken Pantha captive in order to extract Sekhmet's wrath from her and use it for his own mercenary purposes. But Blackwood is unaware that the mysterious threat to the gods has found them, and is about to attack. That threat to the gods, Ta-Nakht, is growing stronger and getting closer to achieving its nefarious potential.

PLUS: Who are the Mortalists, and what part will they play in this epic tale?

## RON MARZ & ANDY LANNING TALK THE NEXT BIG PROJECT SUPERPOWERS SAGA!

Ron and Andy, the Project Superpowers characters have been through all manner of turmoil. Whether it goes back to their Golden Age WWII roots, their modern adventures, or now you guys are taking them thirty years in the future. What's your elevator pitch for fans on this exciting new chapter?

**Marz:** The world of our story is in rough shape. The United States has literally fractured into regional powers, some of them very much at odds with each other. Into that landscape we introduce a literal John Doe, a character who wakes up having no idea who he is, or how he got here. We follow his journey through this shattered America, as he tries to discover his own identity, and the true identity of America itself.

**Lanning:** For anyone who likes a good old-fashioned tale of classic Golden Age heroes cast into a dark dystopian future world where the country has literally fallen apart around them and malevolent forces have risen to take control of the divided states with a main character who's got amnesia and must undertake a perilous journey across the dangerous, fractured landscape... then this one's for you!

**You two are no strangers to apocalyptic team-up adventures, following the rollercoaster ride of DC's big crossover Endless Winter. What kind of cataclysmic environment are our heroes facing in Fractured States?**

**Marz:** Environmental collapse, climate crisis, a pandemic ... you name it, we've got it!

**Lanning:** What Ron said! We just looked around at what we're facing in the world today, took it up a notch or two and we had a very believable apocalyptic landscape to play with. Which, now I think about it, is pretty bloody scary!

**There are countless characters under the Project Superpowers umbrella. Which ones should fans expect this series to focus on the most?**

**Marz:** Our main character is ... well, we can't tell you, that would ruin the surprise. We'll be getting glimpses of most of the Project Superpowers stalwarts, especially the patriotic heroes. We also show a very different version of Black Terror, which has grown from a singular character into an entire guerilla group. Of course, that does lead to the question of where the original Black Terror might be...

**Lanning:** Because the story focuses on the chaos that the United States has fallen into, the patriotic heroes, like The Flag, Man of War, etc feature. But we show other Project Superpowers mainstays too and hint at their fates in this sinister future, but it would be giving away the surprises if we tell more!

# COVER GALLERY



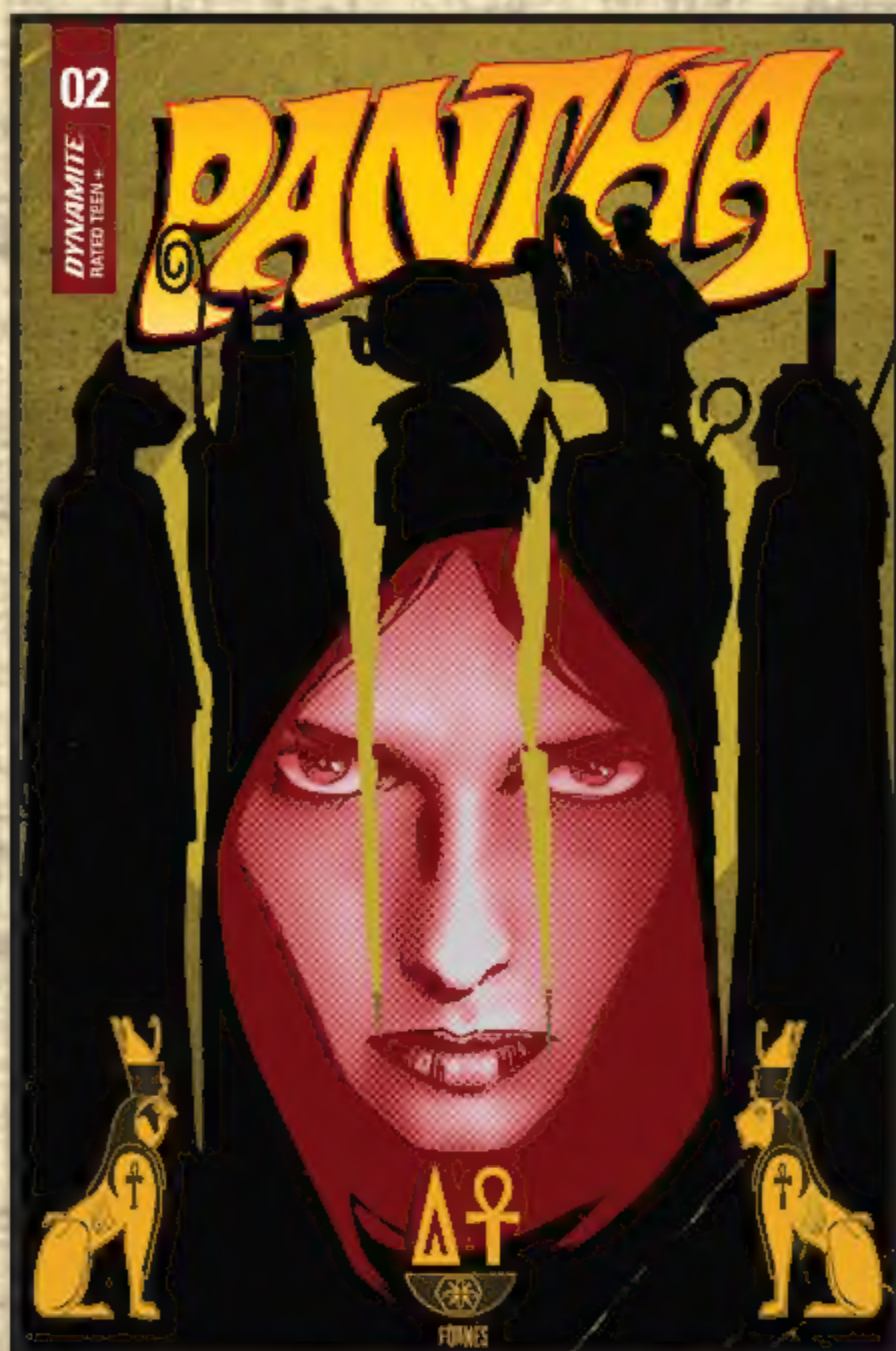
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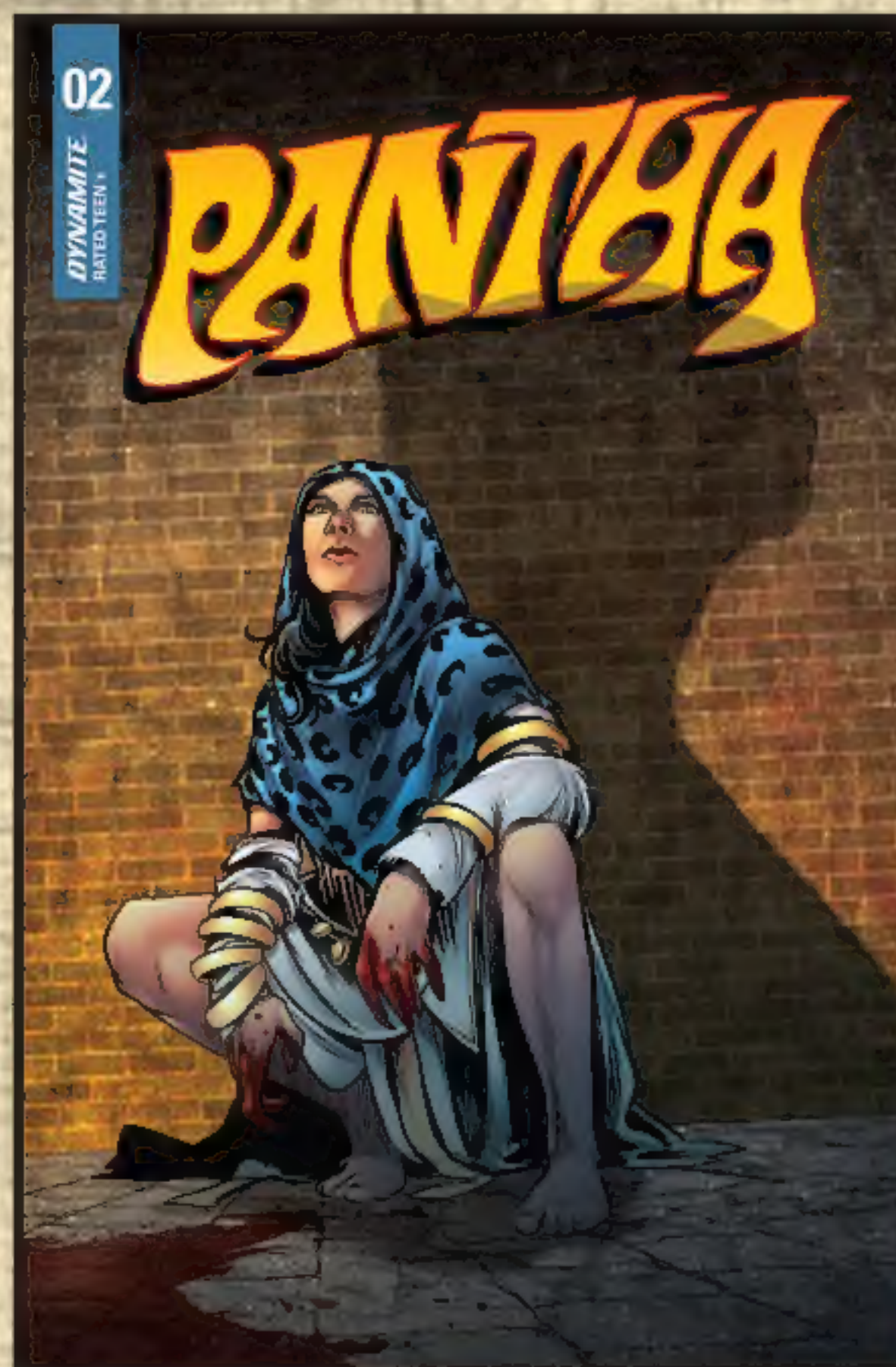
**COVER B**  
art by VINCENT ASEO



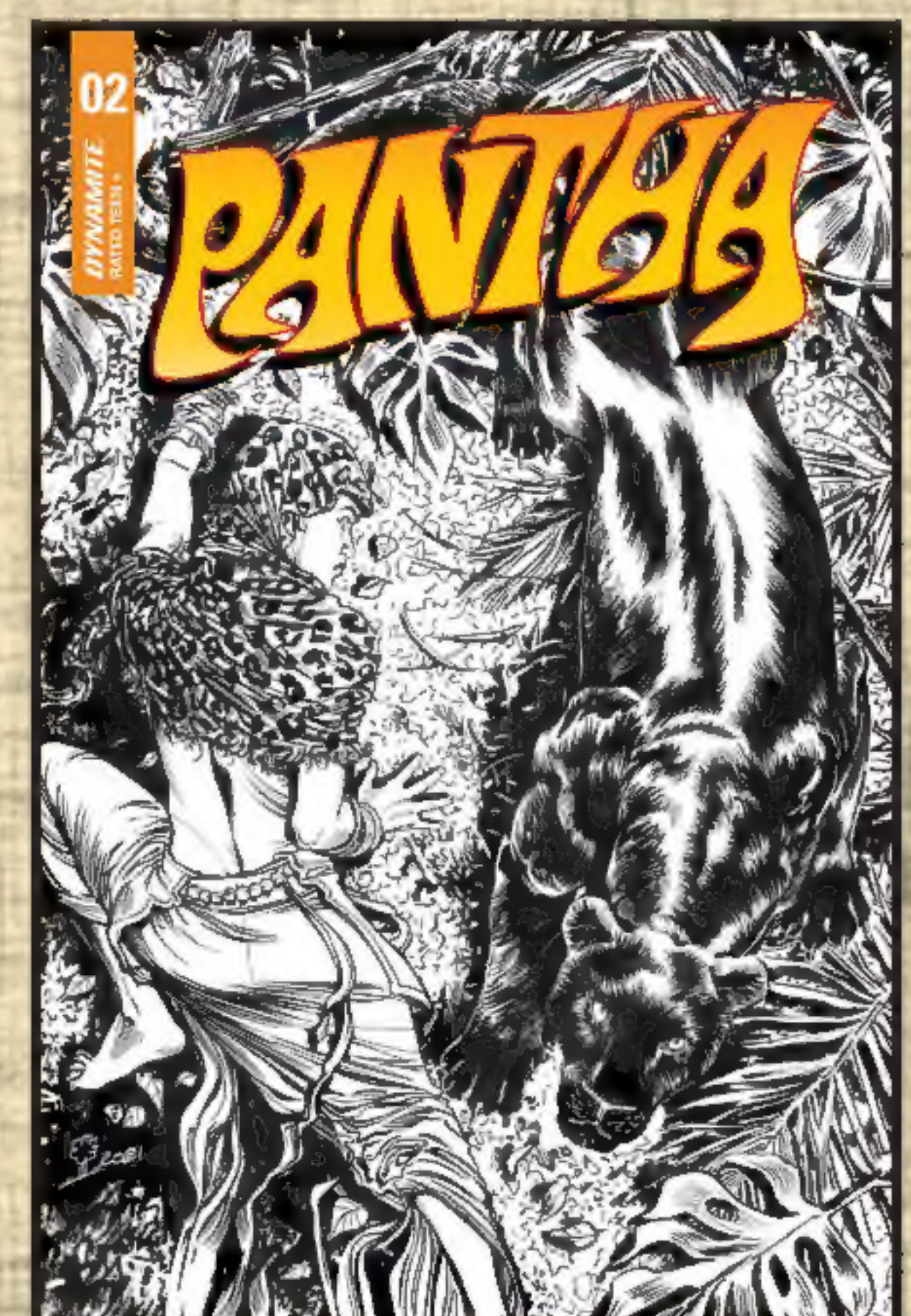
**COVER C**  
art by ELENA PIANTA  
color by IVAN NUNES



**COVER D**  
art by JORGE FORNES



**COVER E**  
art by ALVARO SARRASECA  
color by SALVATORE AIALA



**COVER F**  
10 COPY B&W  
INCENTIVE COVER  
art by ELENA PIANTA



**COVER G**  
15 COPY B&W  
INCENTIVE COVER  
art by JORGE FORNES



**COVER H**  
20 COPY B&W  
INCENTIVE COVER  
art by VINCENT ASEO



**COVER I**  
25 COPY VIRGIN  
INCENTIVE COVER  
art by JORGE FORNES

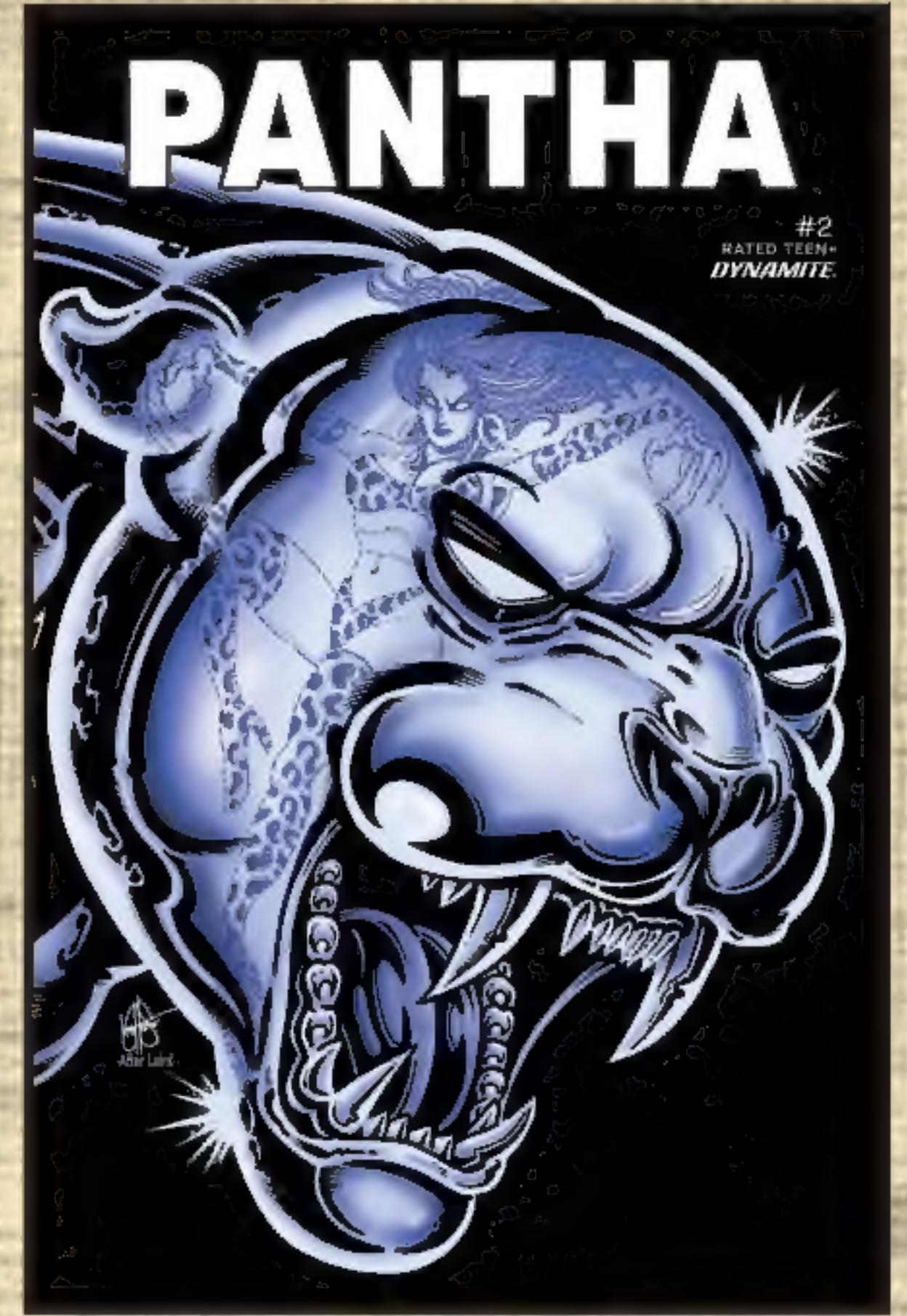
# COVER GALLERY



**COVER J**  
**LIMITED EDITION COVER**  
art by **GIUSEPPE MATTEONI**



**COVER K**  
**LIMITED EDITION COVER**  
art by **ALVARO SARRASECA**  
color by **SALVATORE AIALA**



**COVER L**  
**FOC BONUS TMNT**  
**HOMAGE COVER**  
art by **KEN HAESER**



**COVER M**  
**FOC BONUS TEXEIRA**  
**HOMAGE COVER**  
art by **ANDREW MANGUM**  
color by **IVAN NUNES**



**COVER N**  
**FOC 7 COPY VIRGIN**  
**INCENTIVE COVER**  
art by **ELENA PIANTA**  
color by **IVAN NUNES**



**COVER O**  
**FOC 11 COPY VIRGIN**  
**TMNT HOMAGE COVER**  
art by **KEN HAESER**



**COVER P**  
**FOC 11 COPY VIRGIN TEXEIRA**  
**HOMAGE COVER**  
art by **ANDREW MANGUM**  
color by **IVAN NUNES**



**COVER Q**  
**FOC 15 COPY VIRGIN**  
**INCENTIVE COVER**  
art by **VINCENT ASEIO**

# D.R. & QUINCH

